

Ultrasound Patient Information

Your doctor has requested an ultrasound. Here are some answers to some frequently asked questions.

What is an ultrasound?

An ultrasound uses a machine to create images that allow various organs in the body to be examined. The machine sends out high-frequency sound waves which reflect off body structures. A computer receives reflected waves and uses them to create a picture. The procedure is quite safe and uses no radiation. This is why it can be used during pregnancy.

What happens when I have an ultrasound?

You may be asked to change into a gown and to lie down for the procedure. A clear, water-based gel is applied to the skin over the area being examined to help produce high quality images. A handheld probe called a transducer is then moved over the area being examined. You may be asked to change position so that other areas can be examined.

Are there any special instructions to be followed before an ultrasound?

Preparation for the procedure will depend on the body region being examined.

You may be asked to fast for 8 hours prior to the test. This allows the organs to be seen more clearly and is especially important if we are to examine your abdomen/gallbladder.

If we are to examine your pelvis or urinary tract, you will be asked to fast for 2 hours prior to your exam and attend your appointment with a full bladder. An empty bladder may lead to delays, whilst you drink water to fill it up.

You will be advised of the specific necessary preparations for your test prior to your appointment.

Appointment time

Please be on time. We endeavour to run to schedule. Unfortunately, emergencies can sometimes cause delays. We ask for your understanding in these situations.

How long will the procedure take?

The average study will take approximately 30 minutes, depending on the region being examined. Some studies are more detailed and require a longer scanning time of approximately 60 minutes.

After the test

Patients are asked to wait for their films and the results will be forwarded to your referring doctor as soon as they become available.

In most cases, your report will be delivered to your referring doctor within the same day of your examination.

Please bring any earlier X-rays with you when you attend for your examination.