

Ultrasound Examination

Test Overview

Ultrasound is a test that uses reflected sound waves to produce a picture of organs and other structures inside the body. It does not use X-rays or other types of radiation. A small handheld instrument called a transducer is passed back and forth over the area of the body being examined. It sends out high-pitched sound waves and converts them into a picture that is displayed on a video monitor. The picture produced by ultrasound is called a sonogram, or ultrasound scan.

An ultrasound exam takes anywhere from ten minutes to an hour, and the way it is done depends on the part of the body that is being scanned.

When you make an appointment for an ultrasound examination, you may be given special instructions depending on the type of test. For example, if your lower abdominal and pelvic organs are going to be looked at, you may be asked to drink three to six glasses of water before your examination. A full bladder is helpful in making these organs more easily visible. On the other hand, if a gallbladder examination is to be conducted, you may be asked not to eat for up to 12 hours before your appointment. Eating causes the gallbladder to shrink and makes it harder to find.

ULTRASOUND PREP INSTRUCTIONS

Liver, Gallbladder, Pancreas

For Morning Appt. nothing to eat or drink from midnight the night before the exam until after the exam is completed. For afternoon Appt. nothing to eat or drink for at least 8Hrs. before exam.

Kidney, Aorta, Extremity

You do not need to prepare yourself, just arrive 15 minutes before your Appt.

Pelvis

1. Empty Bladder 1 ½ hour before Appointment.
2. Within the 30 Min. drink 1 quart (4 glasses, 8 oz each) of water, total of 32 oz.
3. Finish drinking 32oz of water 1hour prior to Appt., and DO NOT empty your bladder until after appointment.
4. Register at Appt. desk in X-ray 15 minutes before Appt. time.

➤ **All patients must register 15 minutes before their appointment time.**

➤ If you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment call 408-236-4440.