

Ultrasound

Patient Information

What is an Ultrasound?

During an Ultrasound examination sound waves are used to produce images of the internal structures of the body in the area examined. The internal organs reflect the sound waves and a computer generates the images. The required images are captured as a record of the examination.

Is Ultrasound safe?

Ultrasound has been used for medical examinations for over forty years. Studies have confirmed that no harmful side-effects are caused by the use of diagnostic ultrasound.

Prior to the Ultrasound Examination

1. It is necessary to make an appointment for an ultrasound examination. Examinations take approximately half an hour, but may take up to an hour depending on the type of examination your doctor has requested.
2. When you make your appointment a member of staff will explain the preparation necessary for the type of examination you require. Some examinations will require fasting, others may require you to drink a quantity of water and a few require no preparation at all.
3. If you are a diabetic, please inform the staff when making your appointment. This will allow us to give you an appropriate appointment time if you are required to fast for your examination.
4. Please bring your referral and any relevant previous Ultrasounds, X-rays or CT scans with you to your appointment.

5. Bring your Medicare Card, Pension/Healthcare Card, Veteran's Affairs card and insurance details if applicable.
6. It is advisable to wear a two piece outfit for your examination, however, you may be required to remove some clothing and to wear a gown.

The Procedure

1. The examination is performed by a Sonographer, a person trained to obtain the Ultrasound images.
2. The Sonographer will explain the procedure to you and is happy to answer any questions. However, the sonographer is not a doctor and is therefore unable to discuss any results of the examination with you.
3. During the examination it is necessary to place some Ultrasound coupling medium (commonly called gel) onto the skin to make contact with the Ultrasound transducer (the probe that emits the sound waves).
4. The transducer is then moved over the area to be examined to acquire the images. You may be required to roll into different positions and to hold your breath in order to achieve the best possible images.
5. After the procedure, the gel is simply wiped off.

Results

A Radiologist (a specialist doctor trained to read Ultrasound and x-rays) will view the images and write a report for your referring doctor.

Questions

This brochure is provided to help you understand the ultrasound procedure.

If you have any questions prior to your examination, you can speak with a member of our staff by phoning Patient Services on **132 336**

hunterimaging.com.au