



Introduction – Ultrasound

Ultrasound (also called sonography) uses high frequency sound waves to produce images of the body. The technologist moves a transducer (a small hand held device) is moved over the area of the body being imaged, sending and receiving sound waves. The computer unit transfers the information in the returning echoes into a real-time image on the monitor. . The interpretation of the sound waves is based on the length of time for the echo to bounce back and the character of the sound (i.e. whether it is a solid, water, or gas).

Ultrasound imaging is commonly used for:

- Viewing the fetus and uterus in pregnancy
- Evaluating the pelvis and abdominal organs
- Heart and blood vessel examination
- Guiding the insertion of needles and other small tools in a variety of procedures

Procedure

Preparation

Preparation will vary by procedure. You will be advised of the necessary preparation instructions prior to your appointment. You may be required to have a full bladder for your exam; it will be necessary to drink several glasses of water in the hours before the procedure. Your procedure may require avoiding certain foods such as fatty foods. the instructions will be given to you when your appointment is made.

How it Works

The patient lays on an examining bed and water-based gel is spread over the area to be imaged. A transducer (a small hand held device) is moved over the gel in order to acquire the image. Images are shown in real time on a computer monitor . The ultrasound procedure takes approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. Patients may experience discomfort when a full bladder is required but the procedure is not painful.

Benefits

Ultrasound is a very good option for acquiring diagnostic images of the internal organs, blood vessels and blood flow. It is non-invasive, cost-effective, produces images in real-time and does not require the use of radiation.

Risks

There are no known harmful effects of ultrasound imaging.

Referrals

Referral required.

Appointment required: you will be contact to arrange a date and time.

Results

A radiologist, who is a physician specifically trained to supervise and interpret radiology examinations, will analyze the images and send a report to your referring physician, who will share the results with you.

Language

If the patient has difficulty understanding English, an interpreter needs to accompany the patient.