

**What is an Ultrasound?**

An ultrasound uses sound wave transmission to visualize small and large organs. It can also be used to show blood flow and blockages in veins as well as arteries.

**What should I do to prepare?**

When preparing to have an ultrasound exam of the Pancreas, Gallbladder, Abdomen, and Liver please eat a fat-free dinner the night before the exam consisting of only Jell-o, bouillon, and fresh fruit. PLEASE DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT. Food and air obscure the sound waves from visualizing the internal organs.

When preparing for an Obstetrical or Pelvic ultrasound, you will need to drink 32oz. of fluid other than milk one hour before your exam. PLEASE DO NOT EMPTY YOUR BLADDER. The full bladder is used to better visualize the internal organs.

When preparing for an ultrasound of the Abdominal Aorta, please do not eat or drink anything 4 hours prior to the exam.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Kidney, Testicle, Breast, and Thyroid require no preparation. The Carotid or Venous Doppler also requires no preparation.

**What is the ultrasound Procedure?**

An ultrasonic gel will be applied to the area of interest and a probe will be moved over that area to produce images. Sometimes a transvaginal probe is used to better visualize the uterus and ovaries.

**How long does the procedure take?**

Depending on the type of examination, it can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 1 hour. Please arrive 15 minutes early to allow check-in time.

**When will I have the results?**

Upon completion of the exam, our radiologist will evaluate all your images and generate a report to send to your physician. Your physician will then be able to discuss the results in detail with you.