

Medical Imaging

Ultrasound

An ultrasound or sonography is a safe, painless and cost effective test that uses high frequency sound waves to view organs, tissues or blood flow inside the body. Both still and moving real-time images can be captured during an ultrasound. Ultrasound is useful for evaluating a variety of conditions including pain, swelling and infection.

How do I prepare for an ultrasound?

- Wear easy to remove clothing as you may need to change into a gown
- Based on your medical condition, your health care provider may require other specific preparations.
- **Gallbladder Abdominal Ultrasound:**
AM Appointment: Nothing to eat or drink after midnight the night before until after the examination. You may take medications with a small amount of water.
- **Obstetric Ultrasound (Pregnancy Ultrasound):** For pregnancies up to 25 weeks, drink 16 ounces of fluid one hour before the exam and do not empty your bladder until the test is completed. No special preparation is necessary at or beyond 26 weeks of pregnancy.
- **Pelvic Ultrasound:** Drink 32 ounces of fluid at least one hour before the appointment. Do not empty your bladder until after the exam is completed.



- **Renal and Bladder Ultrasound:** Drink 32 ounces of fluid at least one hour before the appointment. Do not empty your bladder until after the exam is completed.
- **Transvaginal Ultrasound:** No specific preparation is needed.
- **Breast, Scrotal, and Thyroid Ultrasound:** No specific preparation is needed.

What happens during an ultrasound?

A transducer is placed on your skin and pulses of sound waves are sent through your body. As the sound waves pass through the body, they produce echoes which the transducer receives and sends back to the computer. The echoes are analyzed and converted into images, which in turn creates real-time pictures on the monitor. This helps to determine the shape, size and composition of organs and tissues.

What happens after an ultrasound?

- There is typically no special type of care following an ultrasound. However, your health care provider may give you additional instructions depending on your specific health condition.