Abdominal **Ultrasound**

Abdominal ultrasounds use sound waves to create images of structures and blood flow in the abdomen. These ultrasound images are a useful way of examining organs, tissues, blood vessels, and other structures within the abdomen.

GETTING READY

Usually patients are asked to not to eat or drink for 6 to 8 hours before the procedure; however, preparation for the procedure depends on your age and the nature of your examination. Your health care provider will advise you of your preparation instructions based on your specific needs.

The test will take about 15-30 minutes.

WHAT TO EXPECT

While lying down, a clear, water-based conducting gel is applied to the skin on your abdomen to help transmit the sound waves. You will feel light pressure as the transducer passes over your abdomen. Typically, an ultrasound is not uncomfortable, but if the test is being done to check for damage from a recent injury, the slight pressure of the transducer may be painful.

During the ultrasound, it is important that you remain very still. You may be asked to hold your breath for short periods of time during the examination in order to get the clearest images possible of your abdomen.

WHY THE TEST IS PERFORMED

- Find the cause of abdominal pain
- Find the cause of a kidney infections
- Diagnose and monitor tumors and cancers
- Learn why there is swelling in your abdomen
- Look for damage after an injury
- Look for stones in the gallbladder or kidney
- Look for the cause of abnormal blood tests such as liver function tests or kidney tests

REVIEWING YOUR RESULTS

A radiologist will interpret your ultrasound images. Your doctor will discuss the results with you at a follow-up appointment. Your doctor may ask for another follow-up scan or other tests and set up an appointment to check on any issues that were found.

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