

ABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND SCAN

What is it and why do I need one?

An abdominal ultrasound involves using a small device called a transducer to view multiple organs in the abdominal cavity. During this exam the technician will be viewing the liver, spleen, pancreas, right and left kidney, the gallbladder and the common bile and hepatic ducts. This procedure may be ordered by your Physician if you have complained of abdominal pain, abnormal blood tests or pain in your upper abdomen upon palpation.

How is abdominal ultrasound performed?

You will be asked to remove any clothing that may interfere with the testing process and put on gown. You will then be instructed to lie down on an examination table and a clear gel is applied to the skin of the artery that is to be examined. A hand-held probe, called a transducer is pressed to the skin and emits sound waves as it moves over the skin. You may be asked to hold your breath or take deep breathes in during the exam, this is to enable proper evaluation of the kidneys and the arteries. You may experience mild discomfort during exam and the technician may have place some pressure on your abdomen during the procedure.

Do I need to prepare for this examination?

Patients are typically asked not to consume any food or beverage for at least 8 hours prior to the procedure. All carbonated beverages should be avoided.

Is an abdominal ultrasound safe?

This procedure does not employ the use of contrast dye or radiation, so it can be safely performed on all patients. Obesity can interfere with testing and adversely affect test results.