

Getting Ready for an Ultrasound

Questions, Answers
and Preparation
Information for Patients



QUESTIONS:

Diagnostic Imaging Department
(2011-10)

ON THE DAY OF YOUR APPOINTMENT



Please report to the
Diagnostic Imaging
Department (x-ray)
15 minutes prior to
your appointment time.

Diagnostic Imaging, Level 0
Juravinski Innovation Tower
Charlton Campus



Don't forget to allow
time for parking.



If you have any questions
or need to cancel your
appointment please call:

905-522-1155
ext. 34075

What is an Ultrasound?

Ultrasound makes an image using sound waves instead of x-rays. It is very good for looking at organs such as the liver, gallbladder, kidneys, spleen or urinary bladder. It can also look at blood flow in arteries and veins

What happens during an Ultrasound?

For most patients, they can stay in their clothes and uncover the area the doctor wants scanned. Some patients will need to put on a hospital gown.

Gel is put on the skin and a transducer (an instrument that looks like a microphone) is moved over the area. This sends sound waves into the body that make a picture on the video screen. The technologist or radiologist (x-ray doctor) will take ultrasound images.



How do I prepare for an Ultrasound?

Some patients will need to drink a lot of fluids before their test. Some patients are asked to stop eating. Please read the list below to prepare for your ultrasound.

Abdomen

(includes gallbladder, pancreas, spleen, aorta, liver)

- Nothing to eat or drink after midnight.
- Infants—hold last feeding.

Pelvis, Bladder, Appendix

- Full bladder. Finish drinking 4 to 5 (8-oz.) glasses of water 1 hour before the exam and **do not empty bladder.**

Renal (Kidneys)

- No prep unless the whole urinary tract needs to be assessed, then a full bladder is necessary.

Obstetrical—early pregnancy

(less than 10 weeks) (Fontbonne Building)

- Finish drinking 6 (8-oz.) glasses of water or clear fluids 1 hour before exam and **do not empty bladder.**

Obstetrical—late pregnancy

(10—40 weeks) (Fontbonne Building)

- No Prep

Pelvis & Transvaginal

- The patient must come in with a full bladder. After some pictures are taken, the patient will empty their bladder and change into a hospital gown. A probe will be inserted into the vagina by the technologist.

Transvaginal Only - No Prep

Transrectal Biopsies by Urologist referral only

- The patient must be premedicated with antibiotics and discontinue using blood thinners for 1 week prior to test. Patients will use a fleet enema before arriving.

No preparation is needed for the following:

- Carotid Doppler
- Venous Leg Doppler
- Testicles
- Extremities
- Thyroid
- Breast
- Hips

When do I find out the results?

The radiologist will send a report to the doctor who sent you for the test. He/she will give you the results.

