

An ultrasound scan is a safe and non-invasive technique used to obtain information about a variety of conditions affecting the organs, muscles and circulatory systems of the body.

Ultrasound Imaging

Ultrasound uses very high frequency sound waves to produce images of body structures. It has gained wide acceptance because it causes no discomfort and has no known side effects.

Most people are aware of the use of ultrasound in pregnancy. However, it can also be used to image other soft tissue structures to assist in the diagnosis of a wide range of medical conditions.

Scanning is performed by a sonographer. A sonologist (a specialist doctor) makes a report of the procedure for your doctor. The sonographer may show the images to the sonologist before you leave the premises and occasionally the sonologist will participate in the scanning procedure.

Your doctor may have referred you for an ultrasound-guided needle placement for injection or biopsy which is performed by the sonologist.

“... minimal discomfort and has no side effects.”

Preparation

Depending on the area to be scanned, you may need to follow special instructions. This could include drinking fluids or fasting before your test. You will be given the appropriate information when making your appointment.

Some examinations require you to have a full bladder when you arrive. This includes tests for pregnancy, kidneys, bladder, uterus/ovaries and prostate.

The best way to ensure that you are not delayed by an under-filled bladder is to stay well-hydrated (drink plenty of fluids) for a day or two prior to your appointment. Then follow the specific instructions given by the booking specialist.

Upper abdominal scans such as those for liver or gall bladder and some artery/vein tests require you to fast. Again follow the preparation given when making your appointment, but note that you may drink water and take your normal medications.

If you are diabetic or have mobility issues, please discuss this with our booking staff.

There is no preparation required for ultrasound tests such as musculoskeletal scans and most vascular scans.

The Procedure

The scanning time for most examinations is about 20 - 30 minutes although some vascular studies can take considerably longer (one hour or more). Your test may take longer than usual for reasons such as inadequate preparation or degree of difficulty.

The sonographer will hold an ultrasound transducer or probe which he/she will slide over your skin to generate the images. A layer of gel will be spread over the area to be examined to make contact between the probe and your skin. You may be asked to hold your breath while the images are captured. Real-time imaging of muscles and tendons may be facilitated by movement of those structures.

Your ultrasound examination is performed by sonographers who are health professionals specially trained and accredited to perform the test. Sonographers may be male or female. If you have specific concerns regarding the gender of the person performing your ultrasound examination, please make this known to our staff at the time of making your appointment and every effort will be made to accommodate your request.

To ensure that we are providing you with the best service, at any stage of the examination if you have any questions or concerns, please ask our staff.

We also welcome any feedback.



Appointment

Please phone or SMS our friendly booking service on 1300 788 508 or request an appointment online www.canberraimaging.com.au

What to bring

Please bring the following items with you to your appointment:

- Your referral
- Any relevant films
- Medicare card
- Pension / Health Care card

Your results

Your doctor will receive fast and convenient electronic access to your reports and images. Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your results with you.