

WHAT IS AN ULTRASOUND?

AN ULTRASOUND is a safe and painless test that uses sound waves to create images of the inside of the body. These pictures can provide your doctor with valuable information to help diagnose and treat a variety of disease conditions.

WHY IS IT DONE?

Ultrasound is a very useful tool for imaging children. It requires no radiation and can be used to effectively visualize many areas of the body, including:

- Abdomen
- Brain
- Hips (under the age of 4 months)
- Kidneys and bladder
- Pelvis
- Spine (under the age of 4 months)
- Major blood vessels

Ultrasounds can also be used to help guide instruments for procedures such as needle biopsies or catheter insertions to help ensure accurate placement.

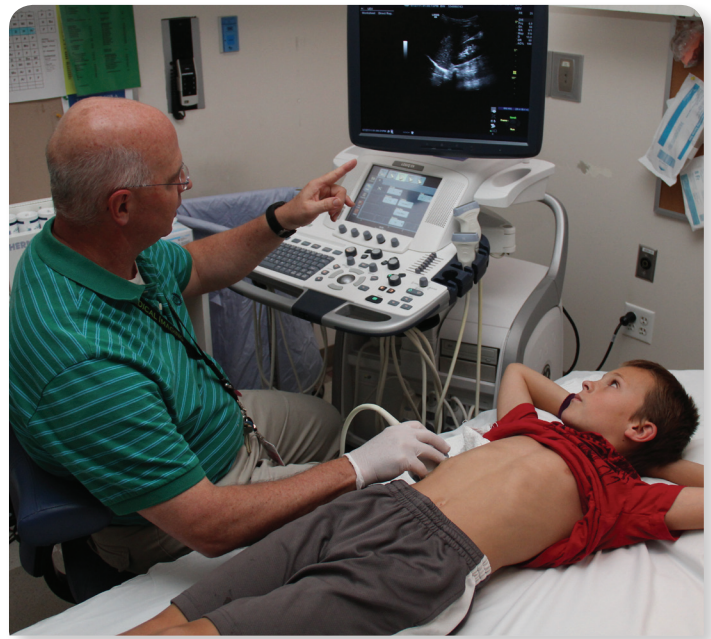
PREPARATION

Preparation for an ultrasound depends on which part of the body will be imaged. Some studies require no special preparation, while others may require a full bladder or your child may need to stop eating 6-8 hours prior to the exam. Instructions will be given when you schedule the exam.

PROCEDURE

The ultrasound room is usually dark so the images can be seen clearly on the computer screen. A technologist (sonographer) trained in ultrasound imaging will spread a clear, warm gel on the skin. This gel helps with the transmission of the sound waves.

The technologist will then rub a small wand (transducer) over the gel. The transducer emits high-frequency sound waves and a computer measures how the sound waves bounce back from



the body. The computer converts the sound waves into images. Sometimes a doctor will come in at the end of the exam to meet your child and review the images. You will be able to stay with your child during the procedure. The ultrasound usually takes less than 30 minutes.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Ultrasounds are usually painless. Your child may feel a slight pressure as the transducer is moved over the body, and the gel may feel wet. If your child is experiencing pain in a specific area, the ultrasound technologist may need to apply some pressure in the painful area to see things more clearly. It is important for your child to lie still during the procedure so the sound waves can reach the area effectively. The technologist may ask your child to lie in different positions or hold his or her breath briefly.

Continued on next page



www.primarychildrens.org/imaging

WHAT IS AN ULTRASOUND?

GETTING THE RESULTS

The ultrasound images will be viewed and interpreted by a pediatric radiologist, and a report will be sent to your doctor within 12-24 hours. Your doctor will then discuss and explain the results with you. Results cannot be given to the patient or family by the sonographer during or after the test. If there are serious or unexpected findings, your child's doctor will be notified and a radiologist will speak with you before you leave the department.

RISKS

No risks are associated with an ultrasound. Unlike x-rays, no radiation is required.



HELPING YOUR CHILD

Some younger children may be afraid of the machinery used for the ultrasound. Explaining in simple terms how the ultrasound will be performed and why it's being done can help ease these fears. You may bring your child's favorite comfort item such as a blanket or stuffed animal.

You can tell your child that the equipment takes pictures of the inside of the body, and encourage him or her to ask the technologist questions. Ask your child to try to relax during the procedure, as tense muscles can make it more difficult to get accurate results.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

If you have questions about the ultrasound, please speak with your doctor. You can also talk to our Child Life Specialist or the ultrasound technologist before the exam.

For more information about Primary Children's Imaging Services, visit, www.primarychildrens.org/imaging.



Primary Children's Medical Center
100 N. Mario Capecchi Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84113

Primary Children's Outpatient
Services at Riverton
3773 West 12600 South
Riverton, Utah 84065

www.primarychildrens.org/imaging