

What To Expect From Your Ultrasound Exam

Diagnostic medical sonography (ultrasound) turns sound waves into images used to diagnose disease and injury, monitor health and guide medical treatment. If a healthcare professional has ordered an ultrasound examination for you, here's what you need to know!



Ultrasound is safe for patients and fetuses when it's used by a qualified, credentialed sonographer.

Ask your sonographer about their training and credentials!



Follow all pre-appointment instructions – e.g., whether to eat or drink, take medications or empty your bladder – for the most complete and thorough exam



You may or may not be allowed to bring someone with you into the scan room so the sonographer can focus on the exam



This is a medical exam. Your sonographer may ask you about your symptoms and health history, and to put on a gown or to adjust/remove clothing



Gel or lotion will be applied to maintain contact between the probe and your skin to make imaging possible



A probe will be placed on or in the area to be examined and adjusted to capture images



Scans can take 25 minutes or up to 2 hours – ask ahead



The sonographer will prepare a summary (including details about your history, symptoms and findings) which is sent, along with the images, to a physician for interpretation



Only your physician can give you the results of your ultrasound and what it means for your health – the sonographer's job is to investigate and capture images so doctors can make sound decisions