

Ultrasound – What is it?

Ultrasound is a sophisticated computerised system which uses harmless high frequency sound waves to produce pictures of the body. It is a safe technique used in all areas of the body

Your Examination

You may be asked to change into a gown if you are having an abdominal or pelvic examination. For pregnancy and other examinations come to your appointment wearing casual, comfortable clothing as you do not usually need to change.

After you lie down on the ultrasound bed, the radiologist or sonographer will spread a water-based jelly on your skin over the area to be examined. The ultrasound probe is then placed on the jelly, which is a sound conductor, to obtain the pictures.

You will be completely unaware of the sound waves produced by the probe. There is no discomfort during the examination, apart from the sensation of a full bladder if you are having a pelvic examination.

The examination usually takes between 15-30 minutes. You should feel free to ask any questions during the examination. However it is not always possible provide immediate answers. It may be necessary to review your pictures and, at times, discuss them with other radiologists to best interpret the results.

For pregnancy examinations, you are most welcome to bring your partner or other close members of your family.

Your results.

At Mercy Radiology we guarantee your images will be reported by our qualified expert doctors who are specially trained in the interpreting of ultrasound images. No other staff report these images.

If your problem is urgent, your doctor may ask you to return to the surgery after the examination is finished. First you will need to wait 15-30 minutes while we process the scanning pictures and the radiologist makes a diagnosis. You will then be able to take both the pictures and a report from the radiologist back to your own doctor.

If your problem is not urgent, your doctor will receive the pictures and radiologists report usually by the following day. The radiologist may also telephone your doctor to discuss the findings.

Appointments

To make an appointment for your ultrasound scan please phone the most convenient of our locations listed on our locations page.

If you still have questions about ultrasound scanning, ask your doctor or contact us direct.

Our staff will be pleased to help you.

