

Abdominal Ultrasound

What You Need to Know and Do

Ultrasound creates detailed images of the inside of your body using sound waves.

Abdominal ultrasound creates images of abdominal organs. It finds organ problems, like gallstones, kidney stones, or liver disease.

What should I do before my appointment?

You should not eat or drink anything for at least 6 hours before your ultrasound.

Be sure to tell your sonographer if you:

- have had previous abdominal surgery
- have had previous abdominal imaging tests, including ultrasound, CT, or MRI exams
- are taking any medicine
- are or think you may be pregnant.

When should I arrive for my appointment?

You will need to arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment time to check in and complete paperwork.

What happens during my ultrasound?

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

You will lie on an exam table. A layer of ultrasound gel is applied to the area being tested.

A hand-held transducer (probe) is moved over your abdomen. You may feel pressure, but it should not be painful.

It usually takes less than 30 minutes.

What happens after my test?

You can usually return to your normal activities and diet right away.