What is Ultrasound?

Ultrasound imaging uses sound waves to form an image. It can be used to image any soft tissue aspect of the body, including abdominal and pelvic organs, pregnancy, blood vessels, musculoskeletal and other parts (breast, neck, scrotum).

You will be taken into the Ultrasound room and may be changed into a gown. The Sonographer will apply a water-based gel onto your skin and use a transducer to perform the examination. The examination is usually well tolerated.

Upon completion of the scan, the images will be reviewed by a Radiologist. Sometimes they may come into the room to take further images. A report will be issued to the referring clinic in 1-2 working days.

SCGH Ultrasound department utilises current technology and along with our highly trained post graduate qualified sonographers aim to provide the highest standard in ultrasound care.

Please bring copies of previous imaging with you on the day of your examination.

You must confirm 48 hours prior to your allocated appointment time on (08) 6457 1532 between 8.30 am and 4pm Monday – Friday.

Produced by Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital’s Radiology Department. For more information regarding bookings contact (08) 6457 1532.

Information current at October 2016.

© Department of Health 2016

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.
Upper Abdomen

This examination assesses the solid organs of the upper abdomen – pancreas, liver, gallbladder, kidneys and spleen.

The Sonographer may scan an area that does not correspond to the area of concern to rule out referred pain.

**PREPARATION:** Please fast for at least 4 hours prior to your appointment time to reduce bowel gas and ensure gallbladder distention. Please refrain from chewing gum and smoking.

Renal Tract

This examination assesses the renal tract - kidneys, bladder and pelvic organs.

**PREPARATION:** You will need to have a full bladder for this scan. Empty your bladder 1.5 hours prior to your appointment time. Drink 600mls of water within the next 30 minutes, finishing 1 hour prior to your appointment time. Please do not empty your bladder again until instructed.

Pelvic / Gynaecological Ultrasound

This examination assesses the female pelvic organs and involves two components;

1. **Transabdominal (external examination)**
2. **Transvaginal (internal examination)**

Transabdominal scanning provides a general overview of the pelvic organs. With patient consent, transvaginal (TV) scanning is usually performed. Due to the transducer being closer to the pelvic organs, clearer images are produced providing further diagnostic information.

If you have never been sexually active, or do not wish to proceed with the internal examination, please let the Sonographer know. Prior to the TV scan, the Sonographer will instruct you to empty your bladder. The specific ultrasound probe is gently inserted a short way into the vagina. The examination takes approximately 10 minutes and is usually well tolerated. A chaperone (Radiology staff member) will be present during the scan.

**PREPARATION:** You will need to have a full bladder for this scan. Empty your bladder 1.5 hours prior to your appointment time. Drink 600mls of water within the next 30 minutes, finishing 1 hour prior to your appointment time. Please do not empty your bladder until instructed.

Other Parts

THYROID – the thyroid gland and surrounding structures will be assessed.

TESTES – the testicles and surrounding structures will be assessed. You will be changed into a gown and covered with a drape during the exam. A chaperone may be present.

**PREPARATION:** No prep required.

Vascular Ultrasound / Doppler

A venous doppler assesses for deep or superficial vein thrombus (blood clot) in the arms or legs.

An arterial doppler assesses for plaque/stenosis (narrowing) in the arteries of the neck (carotid doppler), kidneys, pelvis or limbs.