

# Abdomen Ultrasound

## What is an Abdomen Ultrasound?

An ultrasound makes pictures of the inside of the body using soundwaves, NOT radiation.

An abdominal ultrasound evaluates the organs in the abdomen. The test is painless with no known side effects.

## Why is this exam performed?

An abdominal ultrasound allows your child's physician to gather detailed information that they cannot learn from a physical examination. It gives them an inside look at potential problems in the abdomen. Common reasons to do this test are if your child has:

- Abnormal or frequent vomiting
- Abdomen Pain
- Swollen belly
- Traumatic abdominal injuries
- Suspicion of cysts or tumors

## What to expect

Parents, even pregnant women, may be with their children during the test. It may be helpful to plan for other siblings.

Preparing your child is key to the success of this study. To help prepare your child, our Child Life Specialists will help ease your child's fear and anxiety. Please let a staff member know if you are interested in a Child Life consultation at no additional cost.

Talk with your child before the exam. Children tend to be less anxious if they know what is going to happen and have an opportunity to ask questions. Feel free to bring items from home that are comforting to your child. This could be a blanket, a stuffed animal, a toy, a game, or a book. Feel free to bring juice or a snack for after the exam. If your baby is bottle fed, please bring a bottle.

Your child should not have anything to eat or drink, including water, before the ultrasound. The length of time for this depends on the age of your child.

- A child up to 12 months old should have nothing to eat or drink for 4 hours before the test.
- A child 13 months or older should have nothing to eat or drink for 8 hours before the test.

Your child and the accompanying adult will be taken to the procedure room by a technologist and may be asked to change into a gown. The room will be dimly lit. Each room contains a bed, the ultrasound machine, and a television. The technologist will ask why the study is being done and explain it to your child.

## For this 30-45 minute exam:

- You child will be asked to lie down on his or her back on the table.
- The technologist performing the exam will sit in a chair close to the bed. A warm gel will be applied to your child's abdomen. A transducer, which is like a camera, will be placed over the area where pictures need to be taken. The technologist will move the transducer around to several spots, taking pictures, and sometimes holding it still. Your child may be asked to roll on his or her side or stomach for some pictures.

- It is important for your child to lay as still as possible. Ask the technologist what your child can and cannot touch. Please encourage your child to ask questions.
- The Radiologist will review the pictures before you leave to make sure that no additional pictures are needed.
- For exam preparation and imaging, you should plan to be in the department for 60-90 minutes.
- You will be given discharge instructions at the conclusion of your appointment.

## **Receiving your Abdomen Ultrasound results**

Call your doctor for a follow up appointment as instructed. You can also call the doctor who ordered the study for the results 24 to 48 hours after the test. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call Radiology Nursing at 832-826-5371.

If you would like a CD of your child's study, please call the film library at 832-822-1202. The Radiologist's report will also be included on the CD.