



Diagnostic Ultrasound

DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND

The following information is a brief description of the Diagnostic Ultrasound. If you have any questions after reading this information, please speak with your nurse.

WHAT IS AN ULTRASOUND TEST?

- An Ultrasound is a diagnostic test that uses high frequency sound waves to examine internal organs, the spinal column and major blood vessels.
- It is a non-invasive procedure (nothing enters your body). An exception would be a Transvaginal Ultrasound.
- A microphone-like transducer directs the sound waves into the area being scanned.
- When sound waves strike organs, they produce echoes, which a computer converts to visual images. This is displayed on a monitor.

WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE TEST SHOW?

- It helps determine the presence of normal or abnormal structures.

WHAT PREPARATION IS NEEDED BEFORE THE TEST?

- You should not eat or drink after midnight the night before the test, if abdominal organs are to be imaged. Otherwise, no specific preparation is needed.
- The test is usually done early in the morning.
- For ultrasound of the pelvic organs (abdomen) you will need to drink 4-6 cups of water 1/2 hour before the ultrasound. Your nurse will give you specific instructions. In addition, to obtain the best images, it is important that you do not urinate after drinking the water.
- Escort staff will take you in a wheelchair to the Radiology Department.



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WHERE IS THE PROCEDURE DONE?

- Radiology Department, 2nd Floor, Tisch Hospital.

HOW LONG DOES THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

- The test takes about 30-45 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PROCEDURE?

- You will be lying on your back on an exam table.
- Water soluble gel will be applied to the site being scanned.
- The echoes (sound waves) are displayed on a monitor.
- Pictures may also be taken on your right and left sides.
- You may be asked to inhale deeply during scanning and to remain still during the procedure.

WHAT WILL YOU FEEL?

- You will feel slight pressure as the transducer (a microphone-like device) is moved across the area.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

- You may resume your usual diet and activity.
- The result will be available on the same or next day.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR QUESTIONS
