

PREPARING FOR YOUR ULTRASOUND

If your abdomen or pelvic region are to be examined, you may be asked not to eat prior to the exam and to arrive with a full bladder. Recent food ingestion may interfere with the gallbladder exam. A full bladder maximizes the reflection of sound waves and improves the ultrasound image of the pelvic structures.

Mr. Ms. Mrs.

_____ has an appointment

Monday Tuesday Wednesday
 Thursday Friday Saturday

Date _____ at _____ AM/PM

REASONS FOR HAVING AN ULTRASOUND

Listed below are several of the more common ultrasound examinations, and some of the conditions which can be identified by ultrasound. Your healthcare provider may wish to investigate other conditions as well. If you have questions about why your exam was ordered, please consult your healthcare provider.

ABDOMEN

- ❖ Abdominal pain evaluating
- ❖ Appendicitis
- ❖ Evaluation of abdominal aorta
- ❖ Gallbladder disease
- ❖ Kidney disease
- ❖ Liver or spleen disorders
- ❖ Pancreas or bile duct abnormalities
- ❖ Tumors

AORTA

- ❖ Aneurysms (balloon-like enlargement)
- ❖ Tears

BLADDER

- ❖ Abnormal emptying
- ❖ Stones
- ❖ Tumors

KIDNEY

- ❖ Cysts
- ❖ Inflammation
- ❖ Obstruction
- ❖ Stones
- ❖ Tumors

OBSTETRICAL

- ❖ Abnormalities of uterus, placenta or ovaries
- ❖ Bleeding during pregnancy
- ❖ Fetal abnormalities
- ❖ Fetal growth
- ❖ Fetal number, age, weight, and position in the uterus

TESTICLE

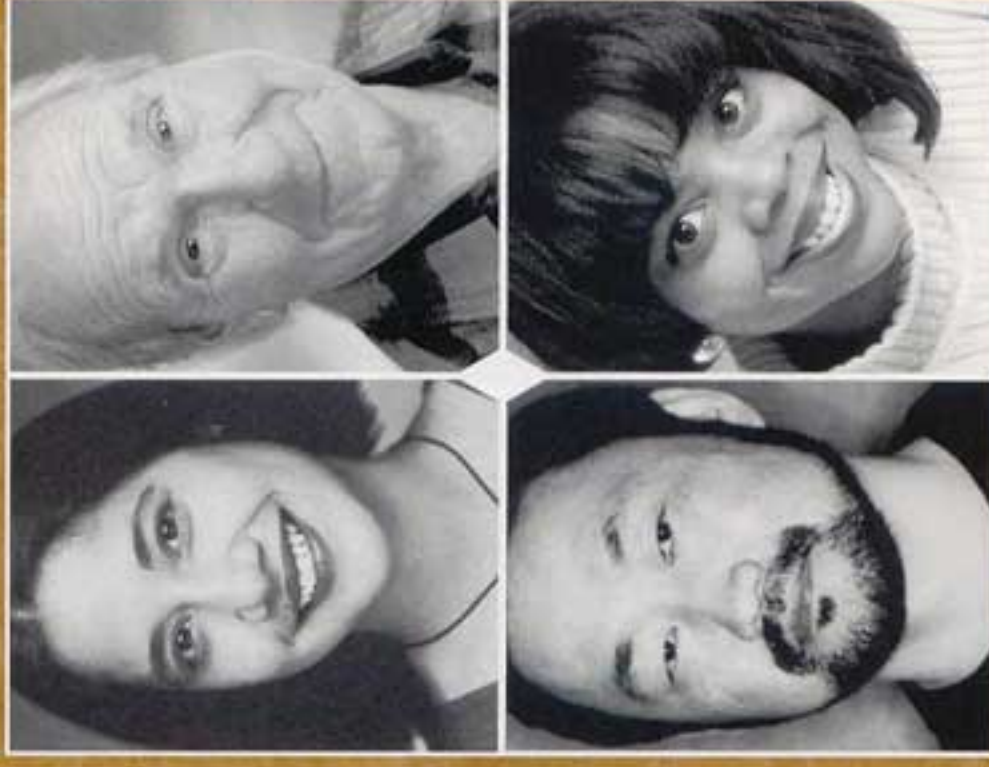
- ❖ Fluid in the scrotum
- ❖ Infection
- ❖ Torsion or twisting of the testicle
- ❖ Tumors

THYROID

- ❖ Cysts
- ❖ Inflammation
- ❖ Tumors

Ultrasound

What you need to know....



PROVENA

Saint Joseph Medical Center

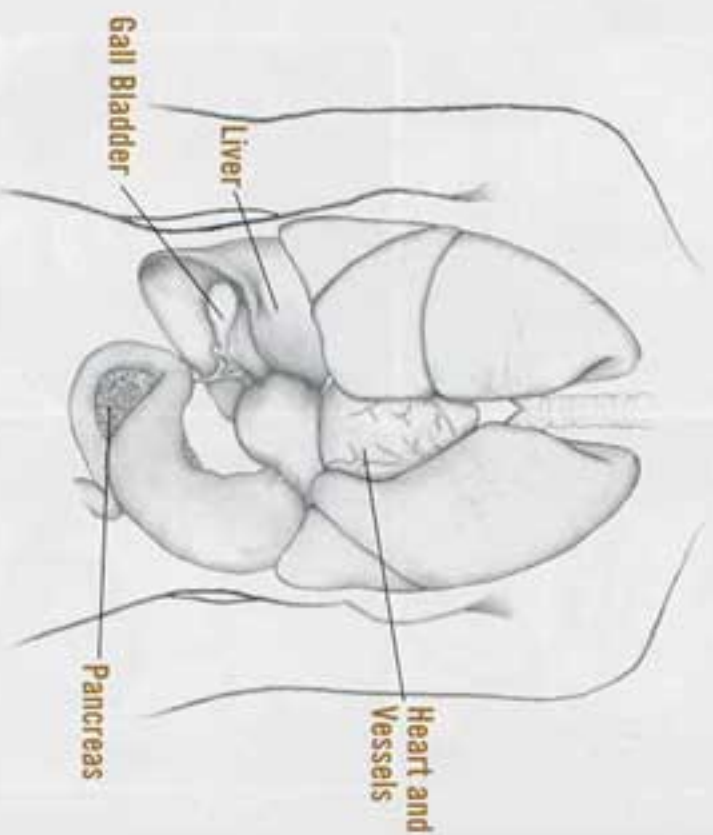


PROVENA
Saint Joseph Medical Center

333 North Madison • Joliet, IL 60435
(815) 741-7213

WHAT IS ULTRASOUND?

Ultrasound is an examination technique which uses high frequency sound waves to make still pictures of the abdomen, reproductive, or urinary tracts, or any other soft tissue structures within the body.



SITES OF A POSSIBLE ULTRASOUND

There have been no harmful effects reported from the use of ultrasounds in more than two decades of use.

DURING THE EXAM



When you report for your exam, you may be asked to wear a gown. This is done primarily to protect your clothes from the ultrasound gel which will be applied to the skin overlying the area to be examined. In most cases, there will be no need to remove jewelry, watches, or dental wear.

You will be asked to lie on the examining table next to the ultrasound scanner. Though the machine appears complex to you, it will be operated by a skilled and experienced technologist who has been specially educated and trained in the use of ultrasound examination equipment.

After the gel is applied, a hand-held instrument called a transducer will be guided slowly across your skin. The technologist will keep a sharp eye on the corresponding image which appears on the ultrasound monitor.

The procedure is painless with no short or long term side effects, and it is quick – usually completed in less than an hour.

AFTER THE EXAM

When the examination is over, you may be asked to remain on the examining table for a few minutes while the technologist reviews the ultrasound pictures for clarity. Occasionally, more images or a brief exam may be ordered by the radiologist at that time.

Because the ultrasound still needs to be interpreted by a radiologist, you will not receive the test results immediately from the technologist. Generally, the findings will be reported to your healthcare provider who will, in turn, forward the results on to you.

