

Medical Imaging patient information

Ultrasound Upper Abdomen

What is an Ultrasound of the Upper Abdomen?

Ultrasound is a sound wave with a frequency much higher than human hearing. Diagnostic Ultrasound, or sonography, is similar in principle to sonar in a submarine whereby images are formed by detecting reflected sound waves or echoes. Gel is placed on the relevant body part and a small hand held ultrasound probe or transducer is applied. The transducer emits a high frequency sound wave, which then passes into the body. Some sound is reflected back to the transducer and this reflection is reconstructed as an image on a monitor.

Ultrasound of the abdominal organs enables the operator to assess organs such as the liver, kidneys, gallbladder, pancreas and spleen. Ultrasound is of limited use for investigating the adult bowel.

What preparation is required?

Ultrasound of the upper abdomen generally requires an 8-hour fast. Avoid carbonated drinks and smoking, the evening prior to the examination but **continue to take any prescribed medications with a small sip of water.**

What is involved?

The patient is required to lie on an examination couch with access to the relevant body part. Warm gel and the ultrasound transducer are then applied to the skin. The room lights are dimmed a little to enhance visualisation of the television image. Depending on the procedure, the sonographer may ask the patient to perform a number of movements, including holding their breath, straining, or rolling into certain positions.

Are there any side effects?

No.

How long will this take?

Most procedures take between 15 to 30 minutes to perform.

How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.** If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

How much will this cost?

Please speak with the receptionist when making your booking regarding the cost.

Please note:

It is important to bring with you your referral, and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or MIA).

For an appointment or if you have any questions about the test please call **9508 1444**