

Ultrasound - aorta and abdominal blood vessels

What is an ultrasound?

Ultrasound is a safe and widely used imaging technique. It produces detailed pictures of the body in 'real-time' using high frequency sound waves, which are produced by a special probe, called a transducer. The frequency of these sound waves is higher than that detected by the human ear and when they are reflected by a part of the body they are detected by the probe and used to create images that can be displayed on a monitor.

What preparation is required?

Ultrasound of the abdominal blood vessels 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?

Before you have the examination, the sonographer will ask you questions about why you have come for the ultrasound scan. They will then explain the procedure you are having in detail and answer any questions you have. You are normally asked to lie down on a bed and the area to be examined is exposed while the rest of the body is covered. Warm gel is applied to the area of your body which is being imaged. The sonographer will then place the transducer onto this area using gentle pressure. The transducer is moved across the area with a sliding and rotating action to allow the image to project onto the screen. 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, but if you have any concerns, please contact the department and speak with one of our staff.

How long will this take?

This procedure will take 15 - 30 minutes.

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 ask reception staff of the cost involved at the time of booking your appointment.

Important

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

Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the relevant number below.