



## **Abdominal Ultrasound**

Abdominal ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves for imaging different organs in the area such as abdominal aorta, gallbladder, pancreas, liver, kidney and spleen.

Some reasons for an abdominal ultrasound are to find the cause of abdominal pain, check for gallstones, assess size of enlarged spleen, look for tumor or masses in pancreas, kidney and belly.

During the procedure, you will lie on your back or side on a padded table. Gel will be put on your belly to improve the quality of the sound waves. The doctor or sonographer will use a small, handheld instrument called a transducer and gently move it over your belly. Imaging of organs and blood vessels can then be seen on a video screen.

## PREPARATION FOR RIGHT UPPER QUADRANT ABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND

### WHAT IS A RIGHT UPPER QUADRANT ABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND?

An ultrasound is a simple and safe imaging exam that uses sound waves to produce pictures that look at different parts of the body. The sound waves cannot be heard or felt. The images or pictures of the body part being examined show up on a TV-like screen. It is not an x-ray and does not use radiation.

The ultrasound exam should take approximately 30 minutes: it is best to allow 1 hour. Careful attention to correct preparation can only help to speed up the exam.

### PREPARATION:

- You must fast for at least 8 hours before your scheduled appointment time. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your appointment.
- Do not chew gum or smoke during this fasting time.
- If it is necessary to take medications during the fasting time, take them with a small amount of water.
- Diabetic patients who need juice should take only the amount that is required.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN:

- After checking in at the reception desk, you will be asked to remove your clothes and wear a gown and robe. You will lie down on a table in the exam room.
- A gel will be put on the skin of the area that is being tested. The gel removes any air that may be between you and the transducer. Gel also helps to send sound waves into your body.
- A technologist will gently move the transducer in many different directions over the skin of your abdomen. Try to lie still during this process.
- You will be able to talk to the technologist while the ultrasound is being done.
- The technologist will remove the gel after the test and you get dressed.

**LOCATION:** Floating Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor    **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 617-636-6340

### YOUR EXAM IS SCHEDULED FOR:

**DAY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please call at least 24 hour in advance to cancel and reschedule. Should you have any additional questions about this exam or the preparation for it, please call the Ultrasound Department at 617-636-6340.