

# Southernex



Imaging Group Ltd

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## GENERAL ULTRASOUND

### Patient Information

**Ultrasound examinations are performed on many parts of the body and give excellent information about a wide variety of conditions – from pregnancy, to gallstones, to varicose veins. Your doctor will have explained why an ultrasound examination is necessary and why it is the best imaging choice for you.**

An ultrasound examination is performed by a sonographer, who is a person specifically trained in ultrasound. Interpretation and reporting of the ultrasound is performed by a radiologist, who is a doctor skilled in reading ultrasound and other types of diagnostic images.

An ultrasound image is produced by the reflection of sound waves. Sound waves are sent into the body via a transducer, which is a small hand-held device placed on the relevant body part by the sonographer. A moving black and white image appears on the ultrasound screen, allowing the sonographer to examine different body parts. A Doppler ultrasound is a particular type of ultrasound examination that specifically looks at blood vessels. There are no x-rays involved in an ultrasound examination, and there are no known harmful effects from the diagnostic use of ultrasound, therefore it is of particular use in pregnancy.

There are a wide range of ultrasound examinations that can be performed, some of which are very specialized and may only be available in particular centres. Ultrasound alone may not be able to provide all the information your doctor may require. Therefore, on occasions, another imaging technique (e.g. x-ray, CT scan) may be used in conjunction with the ultrasound to help reach a diagnosis.

#### **Preparation**

You may be asked to fast (i.e. have nothing to eat or drink) prior to your ultrasound, but this will depend on the examination you are to have. Some examinations (e.g. renal,

pelvis) require a full bladder, therefore you may be asked to drink water before your appointment. You will be informed of the appropriate preparation when you make your appointment.

### **Examination Time**

Ultrasound examinations usually take between 10 to 30 minutes. However, there are some examinations that can take longer. You can ask how long your examination is likely to take when you make your appointment.

### **Procedure**

Usually, you will be asked to lie on a couch for your examination, and may be asked to change into a gown. The sonographer places the transducer on the body part to be examined, after applying a water-based gel to the area. The sound waves will not travel from the transducer into the body without the application of the gel.

The sonographer may need to move you in to different positions or ask you to hold your breath, in order to obtain the best pictures. This will depend on the type of examination you are having. Moving images are produced on the ultrasound screen, and the sonographer records the examination via still pictures that are stored onto film.

After the examination, the gel is wiped off. The images the sonographer has produced are shown to the radiologist, who then reports on the examination. The films and the report are usually ready for you to take back to your doctor after one hour. Alternatively, in some cases, the films and report can be delivered directly to your doctor.

### **For further enquiries about this procedure, contact our rooms at:**

- Ashgrove (07) 3366 2433
- Aspley (07) 3263 5355
- Bribie Island (07) 3408 9099
- Caboolture (07) 5495 2077
- Caboolture Hospital (07) 5498 3055
- Clayfield (07) 3262 8588
- Cooroy (07) 5447 6196
- Gatton (07) 5462 4311
- Gympie (07) 5482 1196
- Hervey Bay (07) 4124 3133
- Indooroopilly (07) 3378 8033
- Maryborough (07) 4121 2767
- Nambour (07) 5441 3677
- Noosa Junction (07) 5447 2312
- Sandgate (07) 3269 9122
- Strathpine (07) 3881 2888
- The Wesley Hospital (07) 3371 9588

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