

FAUQUIER  HOSPITAL
MEDICAL IMAGING DEPARTMENT
www.fauquierhealth.org
Questions? Call 540-316-4500

ULTRASOUND PATIENT INFORMATION AND PREPARATION

Your physician has requested that you have an ultrasound examination.

Your appointment: _____ at _____
(date) (time)

You must have your physician order for your ultrasound with you when you come for your exam.

What is an ultrasound examination?

An ultrasound examination uses sound waves to create images of organs and tissues within the body. Ultrasound is painless, safe and does not use radiation. Since sound waves do not damage tissue, it is often used to examine a baby before it is born. Ultrasound produces very precise images of your organs (heart, kidneys, liver, gallbladder, etc.) and also reveals motion, such as blood flowing.

How do I prepare for my ultrasound examination?

Wear loose, comfortable clothing, free of any metal zippers, snaps or buttons. For some examinations or procedures it may be necessary for you to undress and change into a gown. Preparation for each examination varies, so *it will be very important that you follow the preparation instructions* given to you by your physician's office and/or the Medical Imaging scheduler. If you have any questions about your preparation, do not hesitate to call the Medical Imaging Department at the phone number given above.

What can I expect during the ultrasound examination?

A diagnostic medical sonographer will perform the exam and explain the procedure in detail prior to the start of the exam. A warm gel is applied to the area of your body to be examined. A transducer (the part of the equipment that receives the information) will be placed on the gel and the images will appear on a monitor. The sonographer will give you any special instructions, such as holding your breath or turning from side to side. For pelvic and most O.B. ultrasounds, a special, small transducer may need to be placed in the vagina.

How long will the ultrasound examination take?

Each ultrasound exam is different, however most exams take approximately 30 to 60 minutes.

What kind of effects will the ultrasound exam have on me?

There are no ill effects from having an ultrasound exam. You may resume normal activity immediately after your exam.

How do I find out the results of my ultrasound examination?

Your ultrasound exam will be reviewed by a radiologist (MD). The radiologist will send a report to your physician. The physician who ordered the ultrasound will give you the results of the exam.