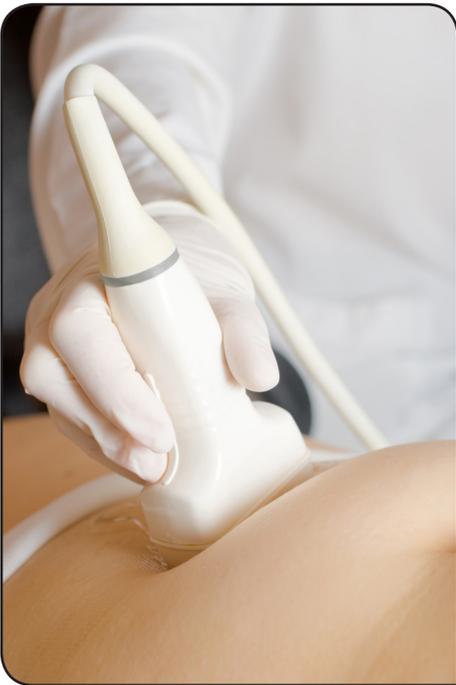




# Abdominal Ultrasound

## Patient Information



### **What is an Abdominal Ultrasound:**

Ultrasound uses sound waves that bounce off of a body part to make a picture. Radiation is not used in this exam. An abdominal ultrasound (or sonogram) is an exam used to look at different parts of the abdomen (stomach area).

A Doppler ultrasound, a special type of ultrasound, may be used to look at major blood vessels. These pictures can help check the aorta (a big blood vessel) for a possible aneurysm (bump or stretched area).

### **Why is an Abdominal Ultrasound Done:**

Below are the most common reasons for an abdominal ultrasound but there may be other reasons your health care provider asks for one.

- To check the liver, spleen, pancreas and other organs.
- To find the cause of pain in the abdomen.
- To find the cause of blocked urine flow in a kidney or to look for kidney stones.
- To help find why an organ is getting bigger.
- To look for gallstones in your gallbladder.
- To see if a mass in an organ is a solid tumor or a fluid-filled cyst.

### **Getting Ready for the Exam:**

Please do not eat or drink anything 8 hours before the exam. Your health care provider will give you more directions on how to get ready for the exam.



### **What You Can Expect During the Exam:**

You will lie down on the exam table next to the scanner. During your ultrasound, the technologist (the person doing your exam) will move a hand-held tool, called a transducer, over the area of interest, taking pictures of all the organs needed for your exam. This should not hurt.

### **Limitations of an Abdominal Ultrasound:**

An abdominal ultrasound is not used to look at your stomach or intestines. Gas in the intestines can also make it hard to see the pancreas or the aorta, so other exams may need to be done. Extreme obesity (being very heavy) can also cause problems with an ultrasound because the extra tissue makes it hard for the sound waves to pass through the body and make a clear picture. Ultrasound is not used to look at bone.

### **Report:**

Results from the exam will not be ready right away. A radiologist will look at your pictures and report back to your health care provider in 24 to 48 hours, Monday through Friday. Your health care provider will give you the results.

### **Directions:**

Waverly Health Center is at 312 Ninth Street, SW in Waverly. Please go through the green entrance and check in at the registration desk. When you have finished your check in, you will be taken to the radiology waiting area.