

Renal and Trans abdominal Ultrasound

What is a Liver/Gallbladder ultrasound scan?

This is an ultrasound scan of the solid abdominal structures which look at the Pancreas, Liver, Gall Bladder, Spleen and Common Bile Duct (CBD). Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves which pass through the skin and are reflected off the organs to create a picture on a screen, with the help of a computer. The pictures are then interpreted by the Radiologist/ Radiographer.

How do you prepare for this examination?

You will be asked to fast for 6 hours before the examination. Take any medication you have been prescribed. You may only drink water to take your medication; please do not drink tea/coffee or any other fluids.

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into a slightly darkened examination room. You will be asked to lie on the examination table, your abdomen will be exposed and some warm gel placed on it.

A small electronic device called a transducer, which produces the sound waves, will then be moved over your skin to examine the pancreas, liver, gall bladder, spleen and common bile duct (CBD). Sometimes a better image is achieved by applying some pressure. At the end of the scan, tissue is provided for you to wipe off the gel.

Is it safe?

Ultrasound has been around for the last 30 years and there are no known side effects. An ultrasound scan does not involve the use of x-rays. It is usually painless.

How long does it take?

The examination generally takes about 20 minutes.

How will I learn the results?

The results will be sent to your referring doctor who will discuss the results with you.

Can I drive home?

Yes, there are no known side-effects from this ultrasound examination.

What is a renal ultrasound scan?

This is an ultrasound scan of the renal anatomy which looks at the kidneys and the bladder. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves which pass through the skin and are reflected off the organs to create a picture on a screen with the help of a computer. These pictures are then interpreted by the Radiologist/ Radiographer.

How do you prepare for this examination?

You are not asked to fast for this exam. Take any medication you have been prescribed. In order to perform this ultrasound scan you will be asked to fill your bladder.

To achieve this, you must drink a litre of water or whatever is necessary to reach a limit of "full". It can take on average 40 minutes for the water to make its way down to your bladder. **Avoid emptying your bladder, as it is important that you are scanned with it full.**

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into a slightly darkened examination room. You will be asked to lie on the table, your abdomen will be exposed and some warm gel is placed on it. A small electronic device called a transducer, which produces the sound waves, will then be moved over your skin to examine the kidneys and the bladder.

Sometimes a better image is achieved by applying some pressure. You will then be asked to go to the toilet and empty your bladder and then return to the room where another scan will be performed of your bladder. At the end of the second scan, tissue is provided for you to wipe off the gel.

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