



Radiology Services

Pediatric Ultrasound

Understanding Your Child's Ultrasound

A doctor has requested an ultrasound exam for your child. Specific ultrasounds will evaluate different parts of the body. We hope this sheet will answer common questions you may have about this procedure.

What is ultrasound?

Medical ultrasound uses sound waves far above the range of normal human hearing. A beam of high frequency sound is passed into the body. The echoes or reflections are received and converted by the instrument into an image providing useful information about internal organs.

What should be expected for a hip ultrasound?

A hip ultrasound provides information about your infant's hips, including location of the femur into the hip joint. For a hip ultrasound, the pediatric radiologist will place the leg of your child in the appropriate positions needed to take the images. He or she will be glad to answer your questions. No preparation is required.

What should be expected for an abdominal or renal ultrasound?

Ultrasound provides useful information about abdominal organs for reasons such as pain, nausea and/or vomiting, abdominal distention or palpable mass. Renal ultrasounds usually are performed because of blood in the urine, urinary tract infections or back pain.

Your child should NOT eat or drink anything six to eight hours beforehand but may take medication with a small amount of water. No preparation is needed for a renal exam.

What should be expected for an ultrasound to evaluate the pylorus (exit of stomach)?

The pyloric muscle may be evaluated for thickening in an infant with projectile vomiting. This exam does not involve radiation. The infant should not eat or drink two hours beforehand and should arrive with an empty stomach.

What should I do just before the exam?

Arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled time to register. Orders for the exam are needed to perform the procedure—**we cannot proceed without them.** Please bring a copy of

your insurance card. Once registered in the business office, you will be directed to the Radiology Department.

What will happen during the exam?

After entering the ultrasound room, your child will be under the care of the sonographer—a specialist who performs the exam to produce ultrasonic images of internal organs. During the exam, the sonographer will make you and your child as comfortable as possible.

Your child will be placed on a soft table, and warm gel will be applied to the area of interest. The gel provides lubrication and lets the transducer slide easily over the skin. The only area that will be exposed is the area we are working on. The sonographer will take measurements of various organs and look for any abnormalities.

How will we get the results?

After the exam, the radiologist will review the images. He or she may come into the room to scan also. The radiologist then will dictate the exam and give a report to your doctor, who will discuss the exam with you.

How long does the exam take?

A pediatric ultrasound takes 30-60 minutes.

Is it painful?

No. Your child will feel light pressure on the area being scanned. Your child may be unhappy lying down, but distraction methods may help.

Is ultrasound safe?

Ultrasound has been used for more than 25 years in millions of cases. A harmful effect has never been found.

We hope you are pleased with the care you receive in the Radiology Department. Our goal is to give you the very best care and attention.

For more information, please call Patient Scheduling at (864) 455-7774 or visit ghs.org/radiology.