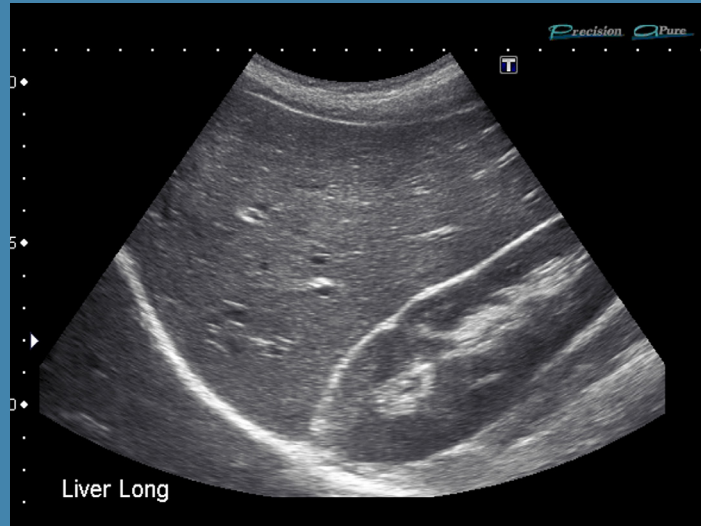


Abdominal Ultrasound

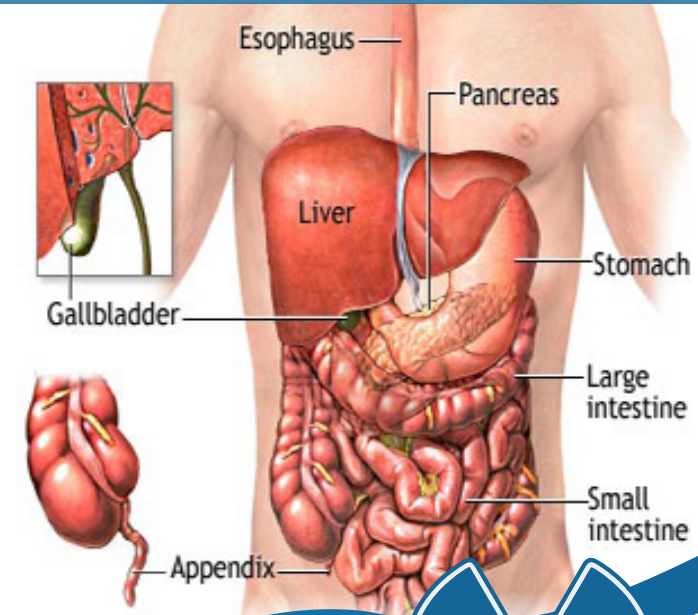
How long will the procedure take?

An Abdominal Ultrasound usually takes around 30 minutes to complete.

Image of an abdominal Ultrasound



Normal liver and kidney adjacent to each other seen in a sagittal plane



If you have any related previous images from another provider please bring them on the day.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. If patients require more specific information please contact your referring Doctor.

For more information contact:

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Radiology



Swan Hill
District Health

my hospital

What is an abdominal ultrasound?

An Abdominal Ultrasound is an examination of the organs/soft tissue structures of the upper abdomen using high frequency sound waves.

The use of ultrasound is to help diagnose abdominal anomalies suspected by your doctor.

Abdominal ultrasound studies are most commonly performed to investigate the causes of abdominal pain or if there is a palpable lump (lump you can feel).

Ultrasound of the abdomen is particularly useful in examining the liver and kidneys but can provide very useful information about other organs.

Preparation

Do not eat, drink, smoke or chew gum for 6 hours prior to the exam. If you have regular medication you may take it with a sip of water unless otherwise advised.

Procedure

You will be asked to lie on a bed for the examination.

Water-based gel is applied to the skin and an ultrasound probe (called a transducer) is placed on your abdomen and gently moved around to examine your organs.

There is usually no discomfort from the pressure as the transducer is pressed against the area being examined.

If the scanning is performed over an area of tenderness, you may feel some pressure or discomfort from the transducer.

Risks of Procedure

For a standard diagnostic ultrasound there are no known harmful effects.

If there is a lot of gas in the abdomen, some organs or areas inside the body may not be seen sufficiently and the examination may not give all the information that is needed. The ultrasound examination may not always show the cause of your symptoms and further investigation(s) may be necessary.

Some of the benefits are:

- Most ultrasound scanning is non-invasive (no needles or injections) and is usually painless.
- Ultrasound imaging does not use any ionizing radiation.
- Ultrasound scanning visualizes soft tissue structures that may not show up well on x-rays.