

What are the potential risks?

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:

- Ultrasound is non—invasive
- Ultrasound imaging does not use any ionizing radiation
- Ultrasound scanning visualizes soft tissue structures that may not show up well on x-rays

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:

Medical Imaging Department

Swan Hill District Health

48 Splatt St

Swan Hill, VIC, 3585

Phone: (03) 5033 9286

Email: radiology@shdh.org.au

Web: www.shdh.org.au

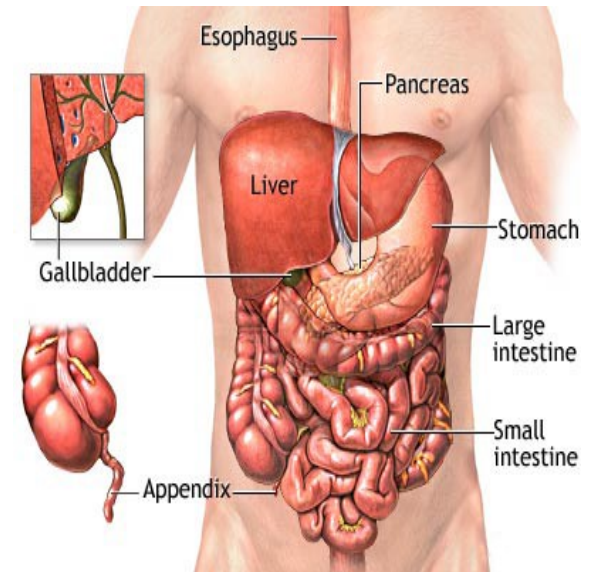
Fax: (03) 5033 9255

Please bring your Medicare card and any Healthcare, Pension or Concession cards if applicable.

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



Abdominal Ultrasound



Medical Imaging Department

What is an Abdominal Ultrasound?

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

The use of Abdominal Ultrasound is to help diagnose abdominal abnormalities suspected by your doctor.

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

Abdominal ultrasound is most commonly performed to investigate the causes of abdominal pain. It can also be used to check for conditions such as:

- Cysts
- Tumours
- Abscesses
- Obstructions
- Fluid collection
- Blockages (clots) in blood vessels
- Infection

Before the procedure

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.

During the 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 abdomen.

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.

How long will the procedure take?

An Abdominal Ultrasound usually takes around 30 minutes to complete.

