

# Patient Information

## Ultrasound

### **What is an Ultrasound?**

An ultrasound scan is a procedure that uses high frequency sound waves to generate images of internal body structures. Ultrasound has a wide range of applications. It is commonly used for obstetric imaging; small parts imaging, including the breast, neck and testes; abdominal and pelvic imaging; as well as musculoskeletal and vascular imaging.

Ultrasound provides detailed, real time information without the use of radiation. The ability to see a moving image also makes ultrasound an excellent tool for guiding procedures such as needle biopsies and injections. Images are generated with the use of a small hand held ultrasound transducer. High frequency sound waves, not audible to the human ear, are transmitted to the area of interest and the reflected signal is converted into an image. Qscan's specialist Radiologists then review these images for diagnostic purposes.

### **What preparation is required?**

Preparation for an ultrasound will vary depending on the type of examination requested. Many examinations do not require any preparation. However, listed below you'll find preparation information, for the more commonly requested examinations.

#### **Upper Abdominal Scans**

Upper abdominal scans encompass the liver, pancreas, kidneys, gallbladder, spleen and aorta. If your doctor has requested a scan of these structures, you will be required to fast. For adults, no food or liquid (other than sips of water) are permitted for 6 hours prior to the scheduled appointment time. Children are required to fast for 4 hours. An early morning appointment is recommended.

It is essential that your preparation needs are considered in conjunction with existing medical conditions such as diabetes or heart failure. If either of these conditions apply to you, or if you have any other concerns, please advise our Customer Service Team who will be able to provide you with personalised preparation information for your appointment.

#### **Pelvic and Renal Scans**

Pelvic and renal ultrasound scans assess the kidneys, bladder and prostate in men and the kidneys, bladder, uterus and ovaries in women. We recommend that you drink 1 litre of water an hour prior to the exam. Please do not empty your bladder after drinking the water.

It is essential that your preparation needs are considered in conjunction with existing medical conditions such as diabetes or heart failure. If either of these conditions apply to you, or if you have any other concerns, please advise our Customer Service Team who will be able to provide you with personalised preparation information for your appointment.

You will need to bring your referral and any previous x-rays or scans with you to your appointment.

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### **What happens during my Ultrasound?**

Your Qscan Sonographer will collect you from the reception area and escort you through to the ultrasound room. Depending on your scan, you may be required to change into a gown. You will then be positioned accordingly for your scan, either seated or lying down.

A water-based gel will be applied to the relevant area to ensure that the transducer has adequate contact with your skin. The Sonographer will then use the transducer to obtain different views and record a series of images. This process is generally pain-free, however some pressure may need to be applied to improve the image. Your Sonographer may request that you also assist in certain scans, for example – holding your breath, which allows for improved views of certain structures.

### **How long will the Ultrasound take?**

Your scan time will vary depending on the complexity of the requested examination. Most simple ultrasound scans take approximately 15-20 minutes, however more time is required for complex studies such as obstetric or vascular imaging.

When the scan is complete, it may be necessary for you to wait while our Radiologist reviews the obtained images. Occasionally further imaging may be required. Your Sonographer will advise you if this is the case.

### **What is the radiation dose?**

Ultrasound uses sound waves only and does not use ionising radiation. Ultrasound does not have any known risks, side effects or complications and is considered very safe.

### **How much will the Ultrasound cost?**

The cost of the scan depends on a number of factors, including the type of scan that your doctor has requested and whether you have a Government issued concession card. Please advise our friendly Customer Service Team if you are a pension or health care card holder.

If your doctor has requested more than one ultrasound, it may be necessary for these to be booked on separate days due to Medicare or different preparation requirements.

Our Customer Service Team will be able to advise you of all costs involved with your ultrasound including any out of pocket cost (if relevant).

### **When can I get my results?**

Images obtained from your scan are digitally recorded. At Qscan, a subspecialty trained Radiologist interprets the images obtained and provides a report for your doctor within 24 hours. Reports and images will be available electronically via the patient app and web portal after your examination. If required, films are available for collection or delivery to your referring practitioner. You will need an appointment with your doctor to discuss these results.

### **Where can I go for a General Ultrasound?**

Qscan Radiology Clinics have a range of convenient clinics located throughout South-East Queensland including: Annerley, Aspely, Burleigh Waters, Carindale, Cleveland, Everton Park, Mater Private Clinic, Mermaid Waters, Nerang, Redcliffe, Robina Town Shopping Centre, Toowong, Victoria Point, Windsor, & Southport.

For further details please call one of our friendly Qscan staff on **1300 177 226** or visit us at: [qscan.com.au](http://qscan.com.au)