

Ultrasound

What is an ultrasound examination?

Ultrasound uses sound waves to produce an image. A small plastic transducer is held against the patient's skin, allowing underlying structures to be seen by bouncing sound waves through the body.

Ultrasound can show soft tissues very well.

Ultrasound scanning can be used to aid interventional procedures.

What types of Ultrasound examination are offered at the LGH?

At the LGH we offer a wide range of diagnostic and interventional sonographic procedures, including:

- Neck (Carotids or thyroid)
- Breast
- Joints
- Liver
- Kidneys (including Doppler)
- Male pelvis
- Female pelvis
- Ultrasound guided biopsy
- Ultrasound guided injections, including Musculoskeletal injections
- Ultrasound guided drainage
- Muscles and tendons.

How do I prepare for my Ultrasound scan?

- If you have been referred for an ultrasound scan by your doctor and would like to make a booking, please contact the bookings on 03 6348 7085.

Just prior to the scan

- You may be asked to fast, drink water, and hold your bladder full. Please continue your regular medication, unless advised not to by your doctor.
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

During the ultrasound scan

- A sonographer will perform this scan.
- Ultrasound scans generally take 30 minutes, but this may vary. Your sonographer will advise you on the day.
- He or she will apply ultrasound gel to the part of your body being scanned, and move the transducer over that area. You may be asked to move into different positions to scan different body parts.
- To ensure a thorough examination, the sonographer may need to ask you personal questions about your health or condition.
- For certain conditions an internal ultrasound may be required to complete the examination.

What do I do after the examination is finished?

- Eat and drink normally after the examination.
- Return to your doctor to discuss the examination results.
- If you have had an interventional procedure, you will be given an information sheet at discharge about your procedure.
- The radiologist's report automatically forwarded to your doctor. If you are referred from outside the hospital you will need to wait for a CD of your images.

Further Information

The following web link provides additional information for patients:

Inside Radiology: www.insideradiology.com.au

This has been written specifically to help you understand more about any radiological tests and procedures that you or a family member may require. It has information about the roles and training of different health professionals you may encounter at a radiology practice or in a hospital radiology department such as at LGH.

It has been written by health professionals and is part of the Consumer Information Project of the QUDI Program (Quality use of Diagnostic Imaging) of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.

To find our more about the QUDI program, click here:

http://www.insideradiology.com.au/pages/qudi_about.php

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