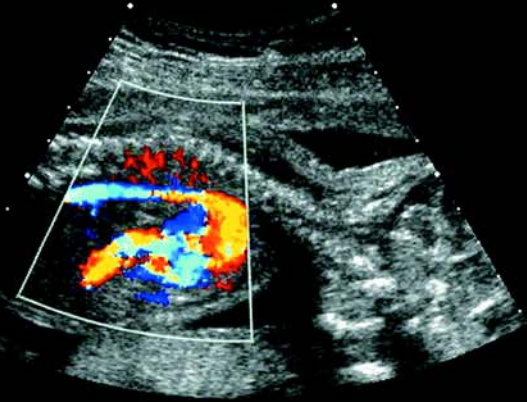




Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

# Ultrasound



Department  
of  
Diagnostic Radiology

## What Is an Ultrasound Examination?

Ultrasound is high frequency sound wave, too high for human ear to hear. It can pass through the skin and tissues without being felt or heard. Ultrasound examinations use these high frequency sound waves to produce images of tissues in the body.

## Why Do I Need Ultrasound Examinations?

Ultrasound examinations can help doctors to detect many diseases. Ultrasonography of the gallbladder may show stones. An image of the breast, thyroid, liver, kidney, or pancreas may show masses and other pathology.

Ultrasound examination of pregnant mother can help doctor to assess the condition of the baby inside the womb. Ultrasonography of major blood vessels can detect problems such as clots.

Under normal clinical practice ultrasound examination is painless and harmless to our body.

## How Do I Prepare for My Exam?

- You need to fast 8 hours before ultrasound examination of the gallbladder.
- For pelvic ultrasound examinations, you may need to drink several glasses of water beforehand so that your bladder is comfortably full during ultrasonography.

## Outpatient Exams

Wear loose, comfortable clothing when you come for your ultrasound examinations. You will need to uncover the

skin over the area to be examined. You may be asked to change into an examination gown.

## What Happens During Ultrasonography?

You will lie on a padded couch for the examination. The sonographer will apply gel to your skin over the area to be studied. Then, a hand-held transducer will be moved over the gel on your skin. Ultrasound waves do not travel well through air, and the gel is used to prevent air bubbles from interfering with the ultrasound.

The transducer sends the ultrasound waves out and also receives the waves when they bounce back. You will not see or feel the sound waves. You may be asked to lie still, and perhaps to hold your breath, so that clear ultrasound images can be obtained.

Multiple ultrasound images will be taken during examination for record and future reference.

An ultrasound examination takes 20 to 30 minutes to complete and may take longer depending on the area of the body to be studied and the degree of difficulty of the examination.

## What Happens After My Ultrasound Examination?

When your examination is over, the gel will be removed from your skin and you are free to leave. You may go back to your regular diet and activities after this study.

2 Village Road Happy Valley Hong Kong

Tel : 2835 8900 Fax : 2835 8045