



# MGH Abdominal Ultrasound



## *Check in:*

If you are scheduled at the main campus, you will report to Ultrasound Radiology Reception (White 2).

If your exam is scheduled at the MGH Waltham location report to Suite 100, Parc building, 40 Second Ave., Waltham, MA 02451. Call 781-890-2627 if you need directions.

If your exam is scheduled at the MGH Chelsea location report to the Radiology Department, 1st floor. The address is 151 Everett Ave, Chelsea, MA 02150. Call 617-889-8510 if you need directions.

If your scan is scheduled at the Yawkey Center for Outpatient Care, report to Yawkey 6th floor - Suite 6E

All exams are performed by MGH technologists (sonographers) and interpreted by MGH physicians at the main campus regardless of where they are performed.

## *Purpose:*

Abdominal ultrasound is most often used to examine the organs in the upper abdomen-liver, kidneys, gallbladder, spleen, and pancreas. In addition we look at the blood vessels within the abdomen-aorta and inferior vena cava, as well as the blood vessels within the liver.

Ultrasound examinations can help determine the causes of abdominal pain and abnormal blood tests related to the liver and kidney function.

## *Preparation:*

You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing for your US exam. You should be fasting for approximately eight hours prior to your abdominal ultrasound-nothing to eat or drink. Brushing teeth and taking medications is fine for this exam.

## *Examinations:*

The routine abdominal ultrasound consists of the sonographer taking several images of the various organs in your upper abdomen. The exam requires that a small amount of gel be placed on your skin surface and a transducer is guided over the body part to capture the desired images. The exam duration is approximately thirty minutes. When the examination is complete, the patient will wait in the room while the ultrasound images are reviewed by the radiologist, either on film or on a TV monitor.

Ultrasound imaging of the abdomen should be painless. There may be varying degrees of discomfort from pressure as the transducer is moved over your abdomen.

A radiologist, who is a physician experienced in ultrasound and other radiology examinations, will analyze the images and send a signed report with images over the internet to the patient's personal physician. The personal physician's office will inform the patient on how to obtain their results. Reports are generally available the same day the ultrasound is performed. The sonographer will not be giving results to the patient. Results information must be obtained through your physician.

## *Post Procedure:*

After the test, you may resume all normal activities. Your physician will discuss the results of your ultrasound examination with you.