



Ultrasound Examination:

Preparation

Abdomen

Fast for 6 hours prior (usually withhold breakfast).
Only have small sips of water for any medication that you may be taking.

Pelvis & Renal

60 minutes prior to the appointment we will ask staff to provide 3 – 4 glasses of water (not coffee or tea). We ask to try NOT to empty the bladder but this is not always possible

ACI does not perform transvaginal examinations due to the technical difficulty to supply this service. If clinically imperative to diagnosis ACI will contact medical staff and advise alternate study which may require ultrasound at a clinic

Musculoskeletal

(any part of a limb, all joints, muscles & soft tissue)

None

Thyroid & scrotum

None

Vascular

Doppler Aorta, Carotid, Renal, Leg & other arteries

Doppler veins

None.

Information

This information is intended for the families of patients undergoing ultrasound services provided by Aged Care Imaging for residents of Aged Care facilities. Aged Care Imaging provides a unique ultrasound service by coming to your family member in their place of residence to provide our service in a comfortable and known environment.

Ultrasound is a type of scan that uses inaudible high frequency sound waves to create detailed pictures of the body. It is a safe, painless and radiation free examination that has been used in medicine for well over 50 years

Preparation

Ultrasound examination of the different body parts may require special preparation, such as fasting or drinking water. Please take the time to read the summary of instructions below for the type of ultrasound examination your family member is going to have but be rest assured these preparation instructions will be provided to the nursing staff of the facility in order to adequately prepare your loved one by ACI staff.

Procedure

As Aged Care Imaging provides our ultrasound service at the bedside of our patients at Aged Care facilities our staff will contact the nursing teams 20 – 30 minutes prior to arriving to both set the final preparation and to ensure that all preparations have been followed. In this time the care staff will escort the resident to their room for the scan. Scans are generally performed in bed but some can be done in a chair such as an arm DVT or arterial studies.

Once we have arrived for the scan our staff will report to the nursing staff of the facility and they will bring us to the resident's room where they will introduce us and help prepare and support the examination. With staff assistance clothing will be removed as the area to be examined needs to be bare for the duration of the examination while the rest of the body can be covered.

Examinations can take anywhere from 20 minutes up to 1 hour with the average time being 20 – 30 minutes.



Our sonographers are all university-trained and accredited with the Australian Sonographer Accreditation Registry (ASAR). A sonographer is the technician who captures and prints the requested images using an ultrasound probe (also known as a transducer) which emits the ultrasound waves.

A water-based gel will be spread on the skin of the area being scanned which assists in the transmission of sound waves between the body and probe. The soundwaves are then reflected by the tissues in your body back to the probe. This information is then used to form an image that is used to obtain a diagnosis. The patient may be required to hold their breath or move into different positions so that the best images can be obtained.

Ultrasound waves cannot penetrate gas and bone. As such, ultrasound cannot be used to look beyond the soft tissue surrounding joints, into the lungs or gas containing bowel loops, however can obtain adequate imaging of solid organs such as the liver and uterus, as well as fluid filled organs such as the gall bladder.

Results

A radiologist, a medical doctor specializing in the interpretation of medical images for the purpose of providing a diagnosis, will then review the images and provide a formal written report to the referring practitioner within 24 – 48 hours. If medically urgent, reports can be fast track for return upon the same day and if required verbal reports given.

Remember

- If you have any further queries, please call Aged Care Imaging on 1300 850 405
- Please note that any referral for a scan is valid at Aged Care Imaging, even if it has been written on a referral form from another radiology provider.

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