

## FAQs -

### ULTRASOUND

#### WHY DO I HAVE TO FAST FOR AN ABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND?

Fasting reduces the amount of air in the stomach and intestines which can interfere with visualization of the abdominal organs. It also ensures that the gallbladder will be distended so it can be thoroughly evaluated.

#### WHAT IS A FAT FREE DIET?

No fatty foods (dairy products, eggs, fried foods or red meat) for 24 hours before exam. Allowable foods are dry toast, jello, vegetables, small amount of broiled/baked chicken or fish, fruit, juice, broth and water.

#### WHEN WILL THE REPORT BE AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE?

The report will be at your doctor's office in 1 week. You must talk with your doctor about the results. Results are not given to the patient by our Radiologist or by staff in our department.

#### WHY DO I NEED A RIDE HOME AFTER CERTAIN INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES E.G. BIOPSY OR DRAINAGE?

It is the department's policy to have someone accompany the patient when they are having certain interventional procedures done. You will be given instructions when needed.

#### WHEN REQUESTED, WHY WOULD I HAVE TO BRING FILMS FROM ANOTHER ULTRASOUND DEPARTMENT TO MY APPOINTMENT?

When certain ultrasound exams are ordered the Radiologist must have the previous films to compare. The Radiologist will view all images and look for changes between the films.

#### WHY DO I NEED A FULL BLADDER FOR MY PELVIS OR PREGNANCY ULTRASOUND EXAM?

A full bladder is used as a window to properly see the uterus and ovaries. A distended bladder also displaces bowel which can prevent visualization of the pelvic organs. For a complete look at the area, an exam with a full bladder may be followed with transvaginal scanning after emptying the bladder.

#### WHY PERFORM BOTH TRANSABDOMINAL AND TRANSVAGINAL FOR THE PELVIS?

The transabdominal study gives an overview of the pelvis. The transvaginal study gives close up details about the uterus and ovaries. The two studies are complimentary and are often performed together.

#### CAN I JUST HAVE AN ULTRASOUND INSTEAD OF A MAMMOGRAM?

Mammography is much more sensitive than ultrasound for the detection of early breast cancer. Ultrasound is utilized as a problem-solving tool following an abnormal screening mammogram.

#### DOES A BREAST ULTRASOUND SHOW MORE THAN A MAMMOGRAM?

Mammography is still the best way to image the entire breast. Ultrasound is used to target certain areas in question on the mammogram, as well as lumps and painful areas that the patient or physician is concerned about.