

## Abdomen and Small Parts

### What is an Abdominal and/ or small parts ultrasound study?

An abdominal ultrasound is an ultrasound exam of the liver, kidneys, gallbladder, pancreas and spleen. A small parts ultrasound is an ultrasound of the thyroid, breast or testicle. High frequency sound waves are used to obtain imaging and can help diagnose a variety of conditions including gallstones, kidney diseases, and cysts versus solid masses, also to evaluate blood flow to organs.



### Why did the doctor order this exam for me?

Pain, nausea or vomiting, abnormal lab values, or enlargement of certain body structures are some possible reasons for the exam.

### What do I need to do to prepare for this exam?

If you are having an abdomen ultrasound, you will need to fast six hours prior. No special preparation is needed for a small parts ultrasound.

### What should I expect from this exam?

The sonographer will ask questions regarding your medical history and the problems you are experiencing. You will lie on your back for these tests; some require you to change into a gown. A transducer (hand held device that transmits sound waves) will be rubbed over your abdomen, thyroid, breast or testicle. A gel is used with the transducer to produce clear images on the computer screen. These exams will take 30-45 minutes each.

### Who will perform the exam?

A registered sonographer will perform the exam in the Imaging department.

### How will I get the results of the exam?

You will receive your results from the ordering physician. This may take 3-5 days for the office to contact you. Please contact the ordering physician if it has been longer than 5 days.

**Contact the Imaging department for any questions prior to your exam, 217-762-1820.**