

Imaging Department

RUQ Abdominal Ultrasound

Your doctor has scheduled you for a RUQ abdominal ultrasound. This is an examination of your liver, hepatic and portal veins, gallbladder, bile ducts, pancreas, right kidney, aorta and inferior vena cava. There are a few things you should know before arriving to the Ultrasound department.

PREPARATION: *If your exam is scheduled in the morning* you need to eat a fat free* meal the evening before your exam. Then, after midnight, do not eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum, until the exam is complete. This will prevent the gastrointestinal system from producing gas (which interferes with ultrasound imaging) and therefore improve the accuracy of the exam. This ultrasound should be scheduled before a barium study, special procedure (including endoscopies), and/or abdominal/pelvic CT scan. If you're a diabetic, you should schedule your exam as early in the morning as possible.

If your exam is scheduled in the afternoon or evening, do not eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum for at least 8 hours before the exam. The last meal you *do* eat before fasting needs to be fat free *.

*Examples of "fat free" include fruits, vegetables with no butter/oil, skim milk, clear broth, Jell-o, fat free breads, cereals, and juices.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety, you will be asked a number of questions by the sonographer and /or radiologist. Possible questions include, but are not limited to:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Any previous surgeries?
- Medical history?
- Last time you ate or drank anything?

THE TEST: You will be asked to lay on your back for the scan. The sonographer will apply gel and rub a camera around on your abdomen to evaluate the previously mentioned organs. The sonographer may ask you to hold your breath or roll on your side during the scan. This exam should not cause any discomfort, although you will need to lie in position for 30-45 minutes. If you become uncomfortable, the sonographer will attempt to make you more comfortable.

AFTER YOUR TEST: The sonographer must take 5-10 minutes to review your images with the radiologist, to make sure no additional imaging is needed before you leave. There are no restrictions from the Ultrasound Department after your test.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your images in great detail and dictate a report. It will then be transcribed for your ordering physician and faxed to his/her office within 48 business hours so that he/she may review and discuss it with you. Your sonographer is unable to give you results at the time of testing.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your examination. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the imaging staff at (574) 364-2819.