



**Queensland**  
Government

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY**

**NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED**

**A copy of this form should be given to the patient/substitute decision-maker to read carefully and allow time to ask any questions about the procedure. The patient information sheet should be included in the patient's medical record.**



## 1. What is an ultrasound and how will it help me/the patient?

Ultrasound scans assess internal organs and help to diagnose a variety of conditions. They are also performed to assess disease in the arteries or veins.

An ultrasound machine is made up of a console containing a computer, a display screen and a transducer. The transducer is a small hand-held device that resembles a microphone.

Ultrasound pictures are produced by passing ultrasonic (high frequency) soundwaves into the area being scanned.

Ultrasound does not use x-rays.

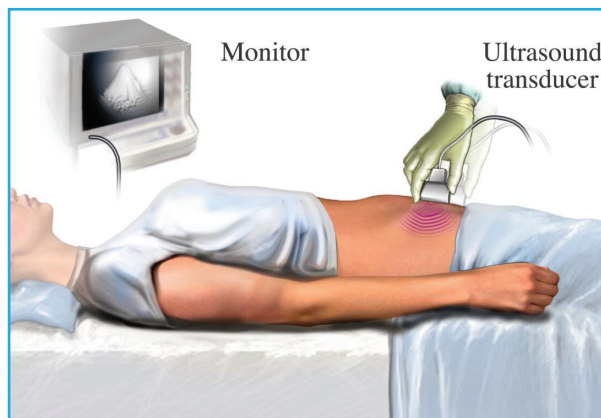


Image 1: Ultrasound.  
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## Preparation for the procedure

There are different preparations required depending on the area of the body being scanned. The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your scan.

If you are having an intimate examination a second staff member may be present during the procedure.

An ultrasound is a painless procedure. No anaesthetic is required.

## During the procedure

The lights in the room will be dimmed so that the pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly.

A gel will be applied to your skin over the area to be scanned. The gel allows the transducer to slide easily over the skin and helps produce clearer pictures. The transducer will be moved back and forth slowly over the area of interest until the area is completely examined.

If scanning is performed over an area of tenderness, you may feel pressure or minor discomfort from the transducer.

You could be asked to hold your breath or roll into different positions during the scan.

Once the scan is complete, the gel will be wiped off your skin.

The ultrasound will take between 15 and 60 minutes. This time frame is dependent on which body part is being scanned and the type of investigation that is required.



## 2. What are the risks?

There are no known risks from an ultrasound. It is considered to be a very safe procedure.

### What are the risks of not having an ultrasound?

There may be consequences if you choose not to have the proposed procedure/treatment/investigation/examination. Please discuss these with the doctor/clinician.



## 3. Are there alternatives?

Making the decision to have a procedure requires the patient/substitute decision-maker to understand the options available. Please discuss any alternative treatment options with your doctor/clinician.



## 4. What should I expect after the procedure?

Your healthcare team will talk to you about what to expect after your procedure and upon discharge from hospital.



## 5. Who will be performing the procedure?

A doctor/clinician other than the consultant/specialist may assist with/conduct the clinically appropriate procedure/treatment/investigation/examination. This could be a doctor/clinician undergoing further training, however all trainees are supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.

If you have any concerns about which doctor/clinician will be performing the procedure, please discuss with the doctor/clinician.



## 6. Where can I find support or more information?

Hospital care: before, during and after is available on the Queensland Health website [www.qld.gov.au/health/services/hospital-care/before-after](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/services/hospital-care/before-after) where you can read about your healthcare rights.

Staff are available to support patients' cultural and spiritual needs. If you would like cultural or spiritual support, please discuss with your doctor/clinician.

Queensland Health recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients will experience the best clinical care when their culture is included during shared decision-making.



## 7. Questions

Please ask the doctor/clinician if you do not understand any aspect of this patient information sheet or if you have any questions about your/the patient's medical condition, treatment options and proposed procedure/treatment/investigation/examination.



## 8. Contact us

**In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).**

If it is not an emergency, but you have concerns, contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.