



The Perth Radiological Clinic Difference

- > a network of conveniently located community and hospital based locations
- > caring, helpful and professional staff
- > state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment
- > over 60 specialist radiologists, trained to provide you with accurate and reliable results
- > world class digital networking between clinics provides the benefits of second opinions from specialist radiologists, no matter which clinic you attend.

You can now request an appointment online via our website and our staff will call you back to confirm your appointment, please visit our website:

www.perthradclinic.com.au

An appointment has been made for you

Clinic _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Time _____

Date _____



Leaders In Medical Imaging

www.perthradclinic.com.au

A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

ULTRASOUND

General, Musculoskeletal and Vascular

For information regarding your appointment,
please see the back of this leaflet.

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What is an Ultrasound examination?

Ultrasound is a safe and widely used imaging technique. Ultrasound produces detailed pictures of the body in real time using high frequency sound waves which are produced by a special ultrasound probe, called a transducer. The frequency of these sound waves is higher than that detected by the human ear and when they are reflected by a part of the body they are detected by the probe and used to create images that can be displayed on a monitor. Because they are captured in real time they appear as moving images. Ultrasound has no known harmful effects and can be used to image a variety of conditions including pregnancy, gallstones, breast abnormalities, muscle tears and varicose veins. Ultrasound can also be used to measure blood flow through vessels, when it is called a colour flow doppler or duplex scan.

Who will perform the scan?

Your examination or scan will be performed by either a radiologist (a highly trained specialist doctor) or a sonographer (a specially trained technologist). Because the examiner is interpreting moving images on a screen a high degree of concentration is required to obtain accurate information.

Therefore, in most circumstances except obstetric scans, family and friends of the patient are not generally permitted to watch the procedure. If you have accompanying children you will have to bring along someone to watch them during your examination.

How long will the procedure take?

Most ultrasound examinations will be completed within 30 minutes; however, some studies will take longer especially the colour doppler studies. It is not unusual for the radiologist to come in and speak with you and view the images on the screen. The radiologist will then interpret all images produced during the examination and the results will be forwarded to your doctor.

Procedure

For most ultrasound examinations you will be required to change into a gown and lie on an examination couch. You will remain covered during your examination except for the area being imaged. In order to obtain optimal images a layer of gel will be applied to the area being imaged so that good contact is made between you and the ultrasound probe. The probe will be placed directly onto the gel and your skin for the duration of the examination. Ultrasound examinations are not painful and generally are not invasive but sometimes they can be uncomfortable if you have to maintain a full bladder or move a body part that might be causing you some discomfort eg a shoulder.

Colour Doppler ultrasound uses a special technology that looks at blood flow through the arteries and veins, for example, - the carotid arteries in the neck that supply blood to the brain, or the veins of the legs. If you are having this examination it is common to hear strange noises as the signals coming from the flowing blood are converted into sound. Sometimes the sonographer will have to gently squeeze the calf a few times when examining the veins in the legs. This should not be painful.

Preparation Instructions for abdomen and renal Ultrasound (including abdominal doppler)

There is little or no preparation for the majority of examinations including breast, musculoskeletal, thyroid, Doppler, scrotal and infant hips (bring bottle for baby). However for abdominal and renal examinations the following preparation is required.

- > Please **DO NOT** eat for 4 hours before your examination.
- > You may drink clear fluids (black tea, black coffee, water and cordial) during the 4 hours before your scan.
- > Continue to take your usual medication.
- > For a renal examination please also drink 1 litre of water and finish drinking one hour before your examination and **DO NOT** empty your bladder.
- > It is important to follow these instructions carefully to avoid possible cancellation and rebooking of your appointment.



Ultrasound Biopsies

On occasion, a biopsy, or sample of tissue, may be required by your doctor to diagnose a medical problem. If you are required to have a liver or breast biopsy, the test may need to be performed at a specific branch of Perth Radiological Clinic. Whilst many biopsies have no specific requirements, biopsies of kidney and liver require special preparation (you will be advised by our booking staff when you make your appointment). The specimen will then be sent to a pathology laboratory for processing and the results will be forwarded to your doctor.

Ultrasound guided injection

Sometimes your referring doctor may request you to have a pain relieving injection into a specific area. A radiologist will perform this procedure and the ultrasound probe is used to guide the injection to the correct place. No specific preparation is required for this procedure.

Booking your appointment

Please advise our booking staff when making your appointment if you are diabetic, taking insulin or have epilepsy to ensure the optimum timing of your examination. Please note: that due to the high demand for ultrasound examinations a cancellation fee will be charged if you do not give at least 24 hours notice for a cancelled appointment.

Please bring any previous imaging with you on the day of your examination. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us!