

Answering *your* questions *about an* ultrasound exam



L'Hôpital de Montréal pour enfants
The Montreal Children's Hospital
Centre universitaire de santé McGill
McGill University Health Centre

WHAT IS AN ULTRASOUND?

Ultrasound is a technique that uses ultrasound waves to produce images of the inside of the human body. The technologist who performs the ultrasound uses a probe and gel placed on the area of the body, such as the abdomen, before being examined. The technologist then produces images for the doctor (the radiologist) to look at. The ultrasound is safe and can be done as often as needed. Also, the exam is not painful.



IS THERE ANYTHING TO DO AT HOME TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM?

Sometimes, yes. If any preparation is required, the secretary in Ultrasound will give you information when you make the appointment.

HOW LONG DOES THE EXAM LAST?

The length of the ultrasound exam depends on many factors but generally the technologist needs 20 to 60 minutes to produce the images. Once the images are produced, the technologist checks the exam images with the radiologist. The time required to do this can vary.

CAN I BE WITH MY CHILD DURING THE ULTRASOUND EXAM?

The ultrasound exam is very safe, without radiation, so parents can be there during the exam. The technologist needs to concentrate, so you should be quiet during the exam. Depending on the case, the technologist may ask you to wait outside the room, which you should do if asked.

WHO PERFORMS THE ULTRASOUND EXAM?

A Medical Imaging technologist performs the examination then checks the images with a radiologist. The technologist may ask you to wait before you leave in case they need to take more images.

WHEN WILL I GET THE RESULTS?

If you have another appointment on the same day or on a following day with a doctor at the Montreal Children's Hospital, the doctor can access the results on our computerized system. If your child's doctor is outside the hospital, the results will be available a few weeks after the exam. We have a



telephone system that your child's doctor can call to listen to the result the day after the exam. This phone service is available 24 hours a day.

WILL WE HAVE TO WAIT A LONG TIME FOR THE ULTRASOUND EXAM?

In a hospital, an emergency can happen at any time and you may have to wait until after the staff takes care of this emergency before your child's exam starts. However, our staff members try to respect the appointment schedule as much as possible. When you register at the reception desk in Medical Imaging, your arrival and appointment times are noted. Please remember that more than one patient can have the same time for an appointment.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE THE EXAM SUCCESSFUL?

First, explain the exam to your child and answer their questions. For older children, we ask them not to move during the exam. If your child is very young, we'll ask you to help keep them still during the exam. This will allow the technician to perform a much better exam.



Contact us for
more information:
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IMPORTANT : PLEASE READ

Information provided in this pamphlet is for educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice or instruction of a professional healthcare practitioner, or to substitute medical care. Contact a qualified healthcare practitioner if you have any questions concerning your care.