



GREATER LANSING

ULTRASOUND DEPARTMENT - PREGNANCY

What is Ultrasound?

It's the use of sound waves to "see" inside the body. Ultrasound is used for:

Examination - Ultrasound can be used to study any areas of the body or to help check the health of an unborn baby.

Diagnosis - Ultrasound can help diagnose many medical conditions, such as kidney disease, gallbladder disease, cancer, and blood clots.

How does Ultrasound work?

- **A transducer.** A transducer is a small microphone-like device that is placed over the area being examined.
- **Sound Waves.** Sound waves pass harmlessly through the skin from the transducer. The sound waves bounce off from certain organs and tissues in the body. This creates "echoes."
- **Echoes.** Echoes are reflected back through the transducer making a picture.
- **A television monitor.** A television monitor shows images as the transducer converts the echoes to electrical signals. These moving images may be viewed immediately, and recorded or photographed for further study.

For an Ultrasound exam the Technologist will:

- Have you change into a hospital gown.
- Position you on an exam table.
- Apply a gel or liquid to the skin of the area being examined to improve the quality of the images.
- Pass the transducer several times over the area being examined. Depending on your exam, you may have to stay still, change positions or hold your breath.
- Wash off the gel or liquid and have you get dressed.

What is the prep for my ultrasound?

You must have a full bladder for the ultrasound.

If possible avoid emptying bladder 1 hour prior to your exam.

A transvaginal ultrasound may be performed to better view the fetus and/or cardiac activity.

This requires a small transducer to be inserted into the vagina.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your procedure, please call us at 975-6382.

If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call our central scheduling office at 975-2695.