



GREATER LANSING

## ULTRASOUND DEPARTMENT

### 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.
- Firmly press 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.