

Imaging Department

Renal/Kidney Ultrasound

Your doctor has scheduled you for a Renal/Kidney Ultrasound. This is an examination of the physical appearance of both your kidneys and urinary bladder. There are a few things you should know before arriving to the Ultrasound department.

PREPARATION: A full bladder is necessary for the first part of this exam. Adults need to *finish* drinking 24 ounces of fluid, 45 minutes *before* the exam start time. (For example: If your appointment is at 2pm, you need to drink all fluids by 1:15 pm.) Please avoid carbonated and caffeinated beverages. Children 12 and under can drink 16 ounces instead of the 24 ounces.

Your bladder may become uncomfortable, but do not empty your bladder until the exam is done. Please speak with an Imaging colleague if you believe you *cannot* hold your bladder and *must* urinate.

This exam needs to be scheduled before a barium study, special procedure (including endoscopies) and/or abdominal/pelvic CT scan.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety, you will be asked a number of questions by the sonographer and/or radiologist. Possible questions include, but are not limited to:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Any previous surgeries? Medical history?
- Whether or not you are (or may be) pregnant?

THE TEST: You will be asked to lay on your back for the exam. The sonographer will apply gel and an imaging camera on your abdomen to evaluate the above mentioned organs. Images of your bladder will be taken while it is full and then you will be asked to urinate. Additional images of your bladder will be taken after you urinate to evaluate how well your bladder empties. You may be asked to hold your breath or roll on your side during the scan. You will need to lie in position for 45-60 minutes. If you have discomfort with this position, the sonographer will attempt to make you more comfortable.

AFTER YOUR TEST: The sonographer must take 5-10 minutes to review your images with the radiologist, to make sure no additional imaging is needed before you leave. There are no restrictions from the Ultrasound Department after your test.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your images in great detail and dictate a report. It will then be transcribed for your ordering physician and faxed to his/her office within 48 business hours so that he/she may review and discuss it with you. Your sonographer is unable to give you results at the time of testing.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your examination. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the imaging staff at (574) 364-2819.