



Renal Transplant Ultrasound

How to prepare for your exam

Renal transplant ultrasound exams are used to detect problems with the transplanted kidney. Read this handout to learn how to prepare for the exam, how the exam works, how the exam is performed, what you will feel during the exam, and how to get your results.

What is renal transplant ultrasound imaging?

Ultrasound of the renal transplant uses sound waves to obtain pictures of the transplanted kidney. Color Doppler is used to check the overall blood flow of the kidney, and spectral Doppler checks certain places within a blood vessel. The blood vessels inside the kidney are checked, as are the vessels leading to and from the kidney.

How does the exam work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. After gel is applied to the skin, the sonographer (technologist) presses the transducer against the skin to obtain pictures. As the sound waves echo from the body's fluids and tissues, an image is formed to show the tissues.

How should I prepare for a renal transplant ultrasound?

- Wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing.

How is the exam performed?

1. You will lie on an exam table, with your clothing moved out of the way.
2. A warm gel is applied to the abdomen to help the transducer make contact with your skin.
3. The sonographer then presses the transducer against the skin and sweeps it over the lower abdomen to take the pictures.
4. The radiologist may obtain more pictures after the sonographer is done.
5. If a biopsy of the transplanted kidney is needed, direct ultrasound guidance is used to help the nephrologist (kidney doctor) get the tissue samples.

Questions?

Call 206-598-6200

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC Clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

Imaging Services:
206-598-6200

What will I feel during the exam?

- Renal transplant ultrasound is fast, painless, and easy.
- You will feel the sonographer apply warm gel to your abdomen, and press the transducer against your skin.
- You may be asked to roll on either side, or change positions.
- There is little or no discomfort with the exam, which usually takes less than 30 minutes.

Who interprets the results of the exam and how do I get them?

The radiologist, who specializes in ultrasound will review the pictures and send the report to your doctor. You will receive the ultrasound results from the doctor who ordered the test. The radiologist may discuss early findings with you at the end of your exam.

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