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Please do not smoke while visiting Central Health sites.

Thank you!



► Diagnostic Imaging

James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre,
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Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre,
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CH-DI 003

Diagnostic Imaging



Central Health

Having an ultrasound



Diagnostic Imaging - Ultrasound

Description and preparation

Diagnostic ultrasound works on basically the same principle as sonar; that is, it uses echoes from sound waves to locate distant objects. During World War II sonar was used to identify submarines. Today, by modifying this technique, high frequency sound waves can be directed into your body through an ultrasound “transducer” in order to identify the major organs. Once the sound waves make contact with the organs, they then bounce back as echoes and produce a picture of the organs on the screen of the ultrasound machine. The sound frequencies used are hundreds of times higher than those detectable by the human ear.

Procedure

You may require special preparation for your test. Please refer to your appointment letter for instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may result in your examination being cancelled. The ultrasound scans are performed by a nationally certified technologist who has a paramedical background such as an x-ray technologist and additional training in the field of ultrasound. A gel will be applied to your

body to provide better contact between the ultrasound transducer and your skin surface. After completion of the examination, the gel easily wipes off. The ultrasound technologist or radiologist scans your organs by moving the hand-held transducer back and forth across the skin surface. The pictures of your internal organs then appear on the screen of the machine and the technologist records the images. You may be asked to take deep breaths and hold them until the technologist says to relax. Most of the scanning will be done while you are lying on your back, but you may be asked to turn on different sides or to sit up.

Your complete examination usually takes less than 45 minutes although it may take as little as 10 minutes or as long as an hour, depending on the complexity of the examination. Your examination will be interpreted by a radiologist who specializes in reading these examinations. Sometimes the radiologist may choose to be in the room and watch the monitor while you are being scanned or even to perform the scan himself.

Please note: If you have any further questions, please contact your healthcare provider, radiologist or technologist at the site where your test is scheduled before your examination.