

knowledge

Know the facts about breast ultrasound



What can I expect & how long will it take?

You can expect a relatively painless, fast and easy examination that will take between 15 and 30 minutes. On the day of your exam, you'll be asked to undress above the waist and remove any jewelry from around your neck. You'll be provided with a gown to drape around your shoulders.

During the exam you'll be asked to lie on your back and may need to raise your arm above your head. The specially trained technologist (sonographer) will place a clear water-based gel on your breast, which helps the transducer pick up the sound waves. The breast tissue image appears on a monitor and will be read by a radiologist. Your healthcare physician can provide additional information should you have any questions.

Will the test be comfortable & are there risks?

Light pressure is applied from the transducer as it passes over your breast. Depending the tenderness of your breast, you may feel some discomfort.

This type of imaging does not use ionizing radiation.

Hospital Name Here



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What is a breast ultrasound?

A breast ultrasound is an imaging technique that uses sound waves to form a picture of the breast tissue. A small handheld unit (transducer) is gently passed over the breast in a back and forth motion, creating the breast tissue image and displaying it on a monitor. This sound wave technique can capture views of breast tissue that can be difficult for other imaging tests to obtain.

Who should get a breast ultrasound?

If you had a physical exam or a mammogram, and your physician detects there may be an abnormality, a breast ultrasound can provide additional information. It can also help your physician determine whether a breast abnormality is filled with fluid (a cyst) or if it is solid.

Women with dense breast tissue, pregnant women, or those with concerns about x-ray or exposure to any radiation, are also candidates for a breast ultrasound.

Why should I get a breast ultrasound?

If an abnormality is detected through other tests, your physician might request a breast ultrasound. Ultrasound scanning can provide clear pictures of soft tissues that can be difficult to obtain with other types of imaging. This can help to find and classify a breast lesion that cannot be assessed through a mammogram alone.

What is an ultrasound-guided breast biopsy?

If during an ultrasound examination a suspicious abnormality is discovered, your physician may choose to perform an ultrasound-guided biopsy, which is a minimally invasive procedure often performed in an examination room.

Typically, an ultrasound exam is performed before the biopsy, which allows your physician to plan the procedure and determine if this method of biopsy can be used.

During the biopsy, ultrasounds provide real-time imaging, so your physician can watch and guide the placement of the biopsy needle to get a sample of the breast tissue.

I have breast implants. Can I still get a breast ultrasound?

Yes, a breast ultrasound exam can be conducted on a patient with breast implants. In fact, breast ultrasound may be a preferred option for imaging breasts with implants.

Your physician can provide additional information should you have any questions.