FAQs ABOUT ULTRASOUND

What is ultrasound?
Ultrasound uses very high-frequency sound waves that reflect off of tissue in your body to make images of organs and blood vessels in your body. Ultrasound does not use radiation, has no known side effects, and is very safe. Most people think ultrasound is only done when you are going to have a baby. However, ultrasound can be used in other ways to find problems in the body. Ultrasound can also be called a sonogram.

Are there any special rules I need to follow before my ultrasound?
There are many types of ultrasound where you cannot eat for 8 hours before the test. Before your ultrasound, the scheduler will let you know of any rules about food and drink, and whether you need to come with a full bladder.

What happens during the ultrasound?
The technologist will ask you to change into a gown and tell you to lie on your side or flat on your back for the test. Depending on the test, breathing instructions will be given. A hypoallergenic gel will be placed on your skin and a probe (a plastic wand with a rounded end) will be used to look at the area of interest.

When the test is done, the gel will be cleaned off and you can get dressed. The radiologist checks the images for clearness so that a diagnosis (what the radiologist has found) can be made. The technologist will ask you to follow up with your doctor in 3 business days to get your results.

How long will my ultrasound take?
Ultrasound can last from 40 minutes to 90 minutes depending on the type of ultrasound ordered by your doctor.