Musculoskeletal ultrasound

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET US05

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

Musculoskeletal ultrasound examinations are normally 10-30 mins in duration. This may vary according to the reason for the examination.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- Medicare and any
- Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

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What is a musculoskeletal ultrasound scan?

Ultrasound is an effective tool for imaging soft tissue anatomy. It can be used to provide high resolution images of muscles, tendons and ligaments throughout the body. Ultrasound scans can be used to investigate sports and work-related injuries as well as causes of chronic musculoskeletal pain.

An x-ray of the region may be recommended if you have not had one in the previous 12 months. This provides assessment of bony structures not seen on ultrasound.

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required.

What will happen during the examination?

You may be asked to change into a gown and possibly remove jewellery depending on the area being scanned.

The sonographer performing the examination may begin by taking a history of your complaint. Ultrasound gel will then be applied to the area of interest, and an ultrasound transducer will be used to scan the relevant anatomy. For each body area there is a routine series of images that will be sought. There may be times when the sonographer scans areas that are not tender to build up a complete understanding of your complaint and to look for causes of referred pain.

When the sonographer has completed the scan, they will discuss the imaging with the radiologist (specialist medical imaging doctor). In the majority of musculoskeletal ultrasound scans the radiologist will also come into the room to speak to you about your complaint.

This is routine practice and does not indicate that there is a serious problem.

Ultrasound

Ultrasound scanning of the breast may also be performed at the time of your mammogram examination. For patients under 35 years of age, ultrasound may be the preferred initial test because the breast tissue is denser at this age.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound scans use high-frequency sound waves (mechanical vibrations) when producing images. No ionizing radiation is used in ultrasound. Ultrasound has been used in medicine since the 1950's and there have been no confirmed adverse effects attributed to diagnostic ultrasound exposure in this time. Benefits of the scan findings far outweigh any undiscovered risk.

General x-ray uses a small amount of ionizing radiation.

After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our radiologist. These will then be sent to your referring clinician. For details on reporting timeframes, please speak with our reception staff. It is important that you follow up the results of your examination with your referring clinician.