



Ultrasound

What is ultrasound?

BRMC's new EPIQ7 ultrasound equipment uses pure wave technology. This allows better penetration with excellent detailed resolution. BRMC has the highest resolution probe for small part imaging including breast and pediatric exams.

Ultrasound is used for a wide variety of exams including limited and full abdomen (limited abdomen checks specific organs while a full abdomen includes aorta, IVC, liver, biliary system, kidney, spleen and pancreas), gallbladder, renal, pelvic, OB, breast, scrotal, thyroid, vascular and invasive procedures (thoracentesis, paracentesis, amniocentesis, and thyroid biopsy).

4D Ultrasound

Taking a traditional three dimensional image and adding the fourth dimension of time, this new technology allows an expectant mother to see her baby's movement in the womb. During the test, the sound waves from the ultrasound are interpreted by the transducer and ultrasound machine to display 2D images and 3D/4D volumes. 4D ultrasounds are used by physicians and sonographers to help monitor the progress and development of a baby in the womb.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does an ultrasound work?

For an abdominal scan, ultrasound gel is applied to the area of interest. An ultrasound transducer is then used to send sound waves into the body.

What are we evaluating during fetal imaging?

In the first trimester, a vaginal ultrasound is often performed and is used to verify heart beat, look for multiples, and to set due dates. In addition, an ultrasound in the first trimester can rule out abnormalities such as ectopic pregnancy or potential for miscarriage. In the second trimester, abdominal ultrasound is performed. A full anatomical survey is performed and measurements are taken to verify growth and detect fetal development problems. In the third trimester, ultrasound is used to analyze fetal growth and movement and to ensure fetal and maternal well-being. A physician will determine the need for and timing of ultrasound scan(s).

What are the benefits of ultrasound?

- It does not require radiation
- It's a safe and painless procedure
- High tech software captures precise imaging on all patients

How do I prepare?

For most abdominal ultrasounds, patients should not eat or drink after midnight.

Exams on areas such as kidneys, bladder, and pelvic (non OB) require a full bladder for the exam.

For invasive procedures, lab work is required before the exam and will be determined by a healthcare provider.

How long will my exam take?

Most exams are approximately 30 minutes. Vascular exams can take 30-60 minutes (depending on if one or both sides are being examined) and patients should allow 60 minutes for an invasive procedure.

Ultrasound staff

- Gigi Carroll
- Bev Sudbrook
- Nikki Cospers
- Taryn Alloway

For any additional information about your exam, call 814/362-8200.