

## Ultrasound: Scrotal Exam

### *How to prepare and what to expect*

*This handout explains how to prepare for an ultrasound exam of the scrotal area. It includes how ultrasound works, how it is done, what you will feel during the exam, and how to get your results.*

### **What is a scrotal ultrasound?**

Ultrasound exams use sound waves to create images of the inside of your body. A *scrotal* ultrasound checks the health of your scrotum and testicles, and their blood vessels. Your doctor may have ordered this exam to find out the reason for your scrotal pain, trauma, lumps, or swelling. Ultrasound can spot many types of problems with your testicles.

### **How does the exam work?**

A *sonographer* (ultrasound technologist) will use a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. This device is called a *transducer*.

First, gel will be applied to your skin to help the transducer make contact. The sonographer will then press the transducer against your skin. As the sound waves bounce off your body's fluids and tissues, images are created. These images will appear on a computer monitor for your radiologist to see.

### **How should I prepare?**

You do not need to prepare in any special way for your exam.

### **How is the exam done?**

- You will be asked to remove your clothing from the waist down. You will be given a sheet to cover yourself.
- You will lie on an exam table.
- The sonographer will apply warm gel to your scrotum. This helps the transducer make contact with your skin.



*Talk with your radiologist if you have any questions about your scrotal ultrasound exam.*

- The sonographer will then press the transducer against your skin and move it over your scrotal area.
- If needed, the radiologist may take more images after the sonographer is done.

### **What will I feel during the exam?**

- There is little or no discomfort with ultrasound exams.
- You will feel the sonographer apply warm gel to your scrotum and move the transducer over your skin.
- The exam usually takes less than 30 minutes.

### **Who interprets the results of the exam and how do I get them?**

A radiologist who specializes in ultrasound will review the images and send a report to your referring doctor. You will receive your results from the doctor who ordered the test. The radiologist may also talk with you about early findings when your exam is over.

#### **Questions?**

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

- UWMC Imaging Services: 206.598.6200
- UW Roosevelt Imaging Services: 206.598.6868
- Harborview Imaging Services: 206.744.3105