

Ultrasound of the Prostate

This information has been created by the health care professionals of Marquette General Hospital to give you information about having an ultrasound of the prostate.

When you have finished reading this information, you should be able to:

- * Describe ultrasound of the prostate
- * Identify preparation

WHAT IS AN ULTRASOUND?

An ultrasound is a test that uses sound waves to examine structures inside the body. A transducer, a hand held instrument that looks like a microphone, is used to send the sound waves and are silent. The sound waves pass through the skin into the body and are reflected back to the transducer by the internal organs.

These sound waves are recorded and changed into an image of the area being examined.

HOW IS THE EXAM PERFORMED?

The prostate gland is located right in front of the rectum. For this reason, the transducer is lubricated and placed into the rectum so the sound will only need to travel a short distance. The image can be obtained from different angles to get the best view of the prostate gland. Pictures are recorded on paper. If a lesion is identified by ultrasound or rectal exam, an ultrasound-guided biopsy maybe performed. A small amount of tissue is taken for exam under the microscope.

The exam will be performed by a doctor, usually a urologist. A sonographer will assist with the exam. The study will be interpreted by the doctor.

Will it hurt? If a biopsy is not needed, the ultrasound of the prostate is similar in discomfort to a rectal exam performed by your doctor. If a biopsy is performed, additional discomfort, due to the needle insertion may be felt. It is usually minimal because the rectal wall is somewhat insensitive in the region of the prostate.

PREPARATION

- * An enema is a routine preparation for an ultrasound of the prostate. If a biopsy is required, you may expect to be given antibiotics by mouth before and after the procedure. Be sure to inform your doctor of any medications you are currently taking and if you are allergic to any medications.
- * Arrive in the Endoscopy Department ½ hour before your exam to check in.
- * The amount of time the exam will take depends on the reason you are having the exam, and the need for biopsy. The ultrasound scan takes about 20 minutes to perform. The procedure may take up to 45 minutes if a biopsy is required.

AFTER THE EXAM

As after any rectal exam, you may have some mucous discharge or minimal spotting from your rectum, especially if you have hemorrhoids. If you have a biopsy, you may have a small amount of blood in your stool, urine, or semen afterwards.

THE RESULTS

When your exam is completed, the urologist will interpret the images. The results will be explained to you by your doctor.