

RETROPERITONEAL ULTRASOUND

Purpose

To obtain images of the kidneys (renal), aorta, inferior vena cava.

How long will this procedure take?

This examination will take up to 45 minutes.

Preparation:

Nothing by mouth after midnight. You may take your normal medications with water. Fasting exams are usually performed in the morning. If you are diabetic, please advise; special arrangements will be made.

If this study is being done in conjunction with a Pelvic Ultrasound, in addition to the above preparation, you will be asked to drink 36 oz. prior to the exam. Start drinking your water one hour prior to the scheduled exam time and plan to finish 15 minutes before the exam to allow time for the water to completely fill the bladder.

Important: You must not empty your bladder until the exam is completed. It is important that the bladder be full for this study in order to better use it as a “window” to view pelvic structures.

Procedure:

You will be asked to lie on a table where a technologist will apply a gel to your abdomen and move a transducer to various points across your abdomen in order to best demonstrate anatomy. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short time for the images. The technologist may ask you to turn into different positions.

After the examination:

The radiologist will study your films and dictate a report which will be sent to your physician within 24 hours.