

Ultrasound Examination of the Scrotum: What to Expect

What is a scrotal ultrasound?

Ultrasound imaging uses soundwaves to create pictures of the inside of the body. A hand held device called a transducer (also called a probe or wand) sends and receives these soundwaves. A scrotal ultrasound is used to evaluate the scrotum and testicles.

How should I prepare?

There is no special preparation for a scrotal ultrasound. The exam usually takes less than 30 minutes.

What happens during the exam?

1. We will escort you to the examination room and give you privacy to remove your clothing from the waist down. You will lie flat on a padded stretcher and we will provide a sheet as a covering.
2. The sonographer will ask questions about your medical history and the area of concern.

Sonographer: a clinician who specializes in ultrasound technology
Radiologist: doctor with special training in creating and interpreting pictures of the inside of the body

The interpreting radiologist will use this information for interpreting the ultrasound image.

3. The sonographer may ask you to place towels underneath your scrotum for support. Warm ultrasound gel will be applied to your skin. This helps the transducer to make contact with your skin and improve the quality of the images.
4. The sonographer will move the transducer over your skin and take pictures of the scrotal area for the Radiologist to review. You may be asked to hold

your breath and blow out with a closed mouth as if blowing up a balloon (this is called the Valsalva maneuver). This helps to better see the blood vessels surrounding the testicles.

5. At the end of the exam, the sonographer reviews the images for completeness. They may come back for more images to complement the original images.

What does the exam feel like?

There should be little to no discomfort. If you are experiencing pain, it is important to let the sonographer know. The sonographer will make sure you are as comfortable as possible.

What are the benefits and risks?

Scrotal ultrasound is used to make medical decisions about your current condition or symptoms. There are no common risks from this ultrasound.

Who will give me my ultrasound results?

A radiologist who specializes in ultrasound will evaluate your pictures and send a report to your provider. You will receive your ultrasound results from your provider. The sonographer is not a doctor and cannot interpret the images or provide results.

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