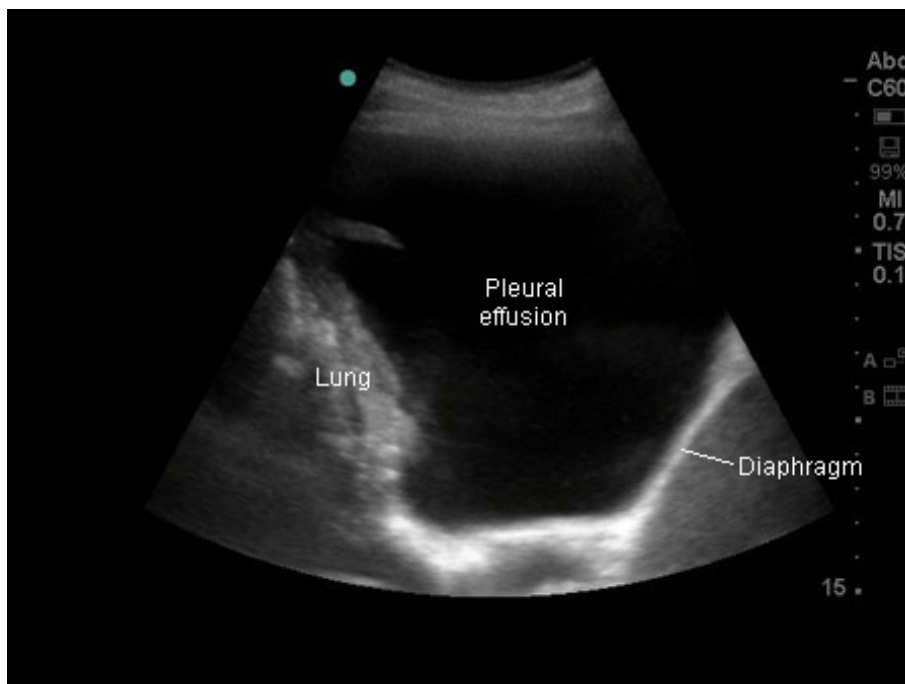


Chest Ultrasound

What is a chest ultrasound?

Ultrasound can be used to look inside the chest cavity to evaluate for fluid around the lung. This exam does not look at the lung itself or the heart.



How does the ultrasound work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. For the exam, the sonographer will apply warm gel to your back and place the transducer against your skin to take pictures. When the sound waves reflect back to the transducer from inside the body, an image is created on the screen. Ultrasound does NOT use radiation.

How should I prepare?

- There is no prep for this exam

How long will it take?

30 minutes

Why would my doctor order this?

- To check for fluid around the lung, called a pleural effusion
- If you are experiencing shortness of breath
- Pain in the chest area
- Other

What will happen during the exam?

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown so that the ultrasound gel does not get on your clothes. You will sit on the bed while the sonographer applies the warm gel to your back and moves the transducer around to take pictures. The ultrasound is easy and you should not experience any pain.

How will I get the results?

After all of the images are obtained, they are reviewed by a radiologist who specializes in ultrasound. They will send the results to your doctor who ordered the exam. In some cases, the radiologist may review the preliminary results with you after the exam is over.