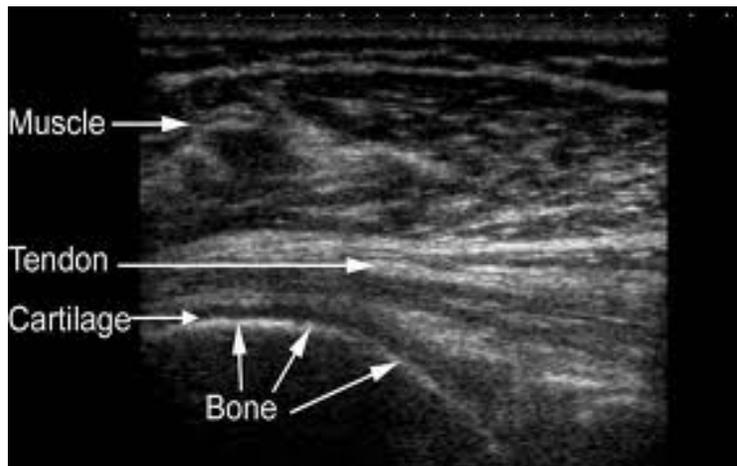


Extremity Ultrasound

What is an extremity ultrasound?

An ultrasound of your extremity is an exam that evaluates a body part such as your arm or leg. The exam can evaluate muscle, fat, tissue, skin, and joints, but not blood vessels.



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 extremity 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?

- Wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to take off and put on

How long will it take?

30 minutes

Why would my doctor order this?

- Muscle soreness
- Joint soreness
- Limited movement around a joint
- History of surgery in the area
- A lump or possible infection
- Musculoskeletal (MSK) Injections: MSK Ultrasound has become extremely popular for not just diagnostic imaging, but now is being routinely used for needle guidance. Various nerve blocks, intra-articular injections, trigger point and muscular injections are now being done under ultrasound guidance.
- 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 lie on a bed while the sonographer applies the warm gel to the area of interest. He/she will move the transducer around to take pictures. The ultrasound is easy and you will experience little to no pain. If you feel some discomfort during the exam, please let the sonographer know.

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.