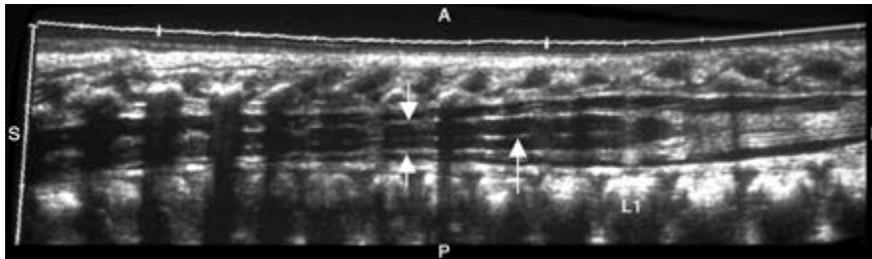
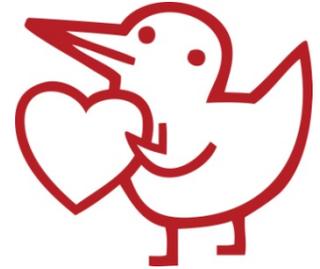


Pediatric Spinal Ultrasound

What is a spinal ultrasound?

A spinal ultrasound is performed to evaluate the spinal cord of an infant. Most commonly this ultrasound is requested when babies are born with a dimple on the lower end of their spine or tail bone. The ultrasound can evaluate the location of the spinal cord and verify the closure of the vertebrae.



How does the ultrasound work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives the sound waves. For the exam, the sonographer or radiologist (ultrasound doctor) will apply gel to your infant's back and place the transducer on his/her skin to take the 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/my child prepare?

- There is no prep for this exam.
- Your child may need to remove his/her clothing, so it may help to have something easy to take off.
- You may need extra diapers, as sometimes the gel gets on the diaper.
- For children who may not want to sit still, a favorite distraction or comfort item may be helpful. We do have DVD players and movies.

**If you and your child would like a pre-procedure tour please contact Swedish's dedicated child life specialists at 206-386-6283.*

How long will it take?

30 minutes

Why would my doctor order this?

- Often this exam is done if your baby is born with a dimple or cleft in the lower part of the spine
- Infants with caudal regression syndrome or spina bifida
- Detection of result of injury from birth, lumbar puncture, or procedure
- Other signs of possible spinal abnormalities that appear on the spine; skin discoloration, tuft of hair, skin tags, or masses

What will happen during the exam?

Your baby will lie on his/her stomach on a bed. There will be a small towel roll placed under baby's tummy to make him/her more comfortable. The sonographer (technologist) or radiologist (ultrasound doctor) will apply a small amount of warm gel onto your baby's back. Then he/she will gently place the camera on his/her skin. By changing the position of the camera they will obtain the images of the spine needed for the exam. The exam is quick and easy and will not hurt your baby. Your baby may not like to be on his/her tummy, but younger infants will sleep through the exam.

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 child's doctor who ordered the exam. In some cases, the radiologist may review the preliminary results with you after the exam is over.