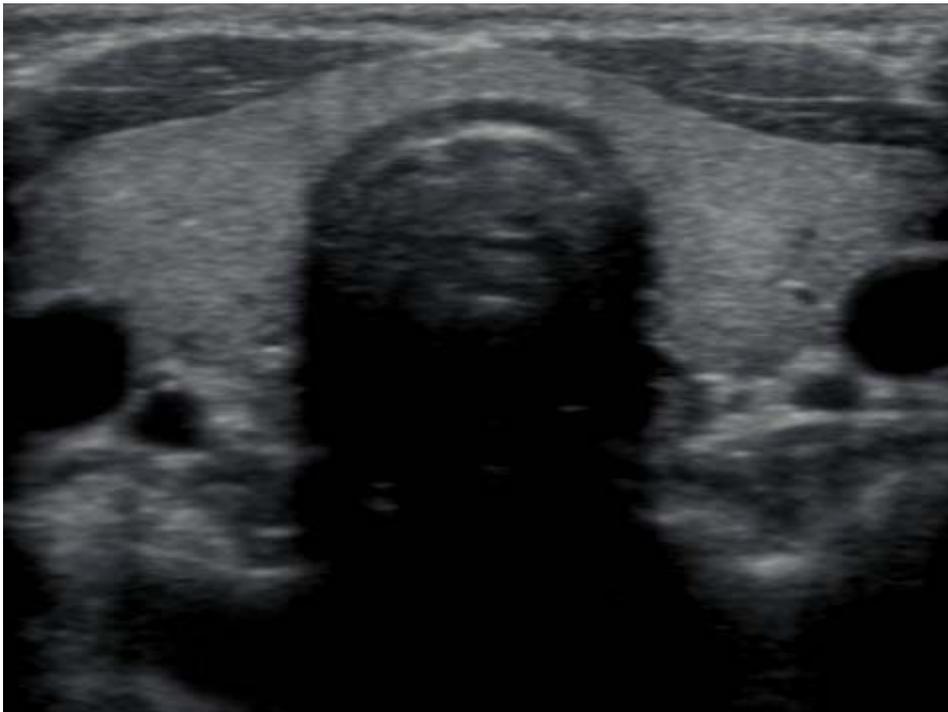


Neck/Thyroid Ultrasound

What is a neck ultrasound?

This exam uses ultrasound to see inside your neck and evaluate your thyroid, parathyroid glands, or a lump in your neck under the skin. This exam may also be ordered to evaluate lymph nodes or other areas of your neck.



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 neck 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 for the exam?

- There is no prep for this exam

- Wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to take off and comfortable to wear in a bed
- Try to avoid wearing shirts with high collars and necklaces

How long will it take?

- 45 minutes

Why would my doctor order this?

- Nodules in your thyroid
- Palpable lump in your neck
- Difficulty swallowing
- Abnormal thyroid levels in your blood test
- History of thyroid cancer
- 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 your back while the sonographer applies the warm gel to your neck and move the transducer around to take pictures. He/she may ask you not to talk because your voice can interfere with the sound waves. The ultrasound is fairly easy and you should not experience any pain.

How do I get the results of the exam?

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.