

Breast Ultrasound



What is a Breast Ultrasound?

The primary use of breast ultrasound today is to help diagnose breast abnormalities detected by a physician during a physical exam and to characterize potential abnormalities seen on a mammogram or felt during an examination. Ultrasound imaging or sonography uses sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Ultrasound exams do not use radiation. Ultrasound images are captured in real-time so they can show the structure and movement of the body's internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels.

CPT Code

76645

Indications

This exam is used as a follow-up on a mammogram finding, lump or focal pain.

Contraindications

none

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

Patient should wear a loose fitting two-piece outfit. A mammogram is typically performed prior to an ultrasound.

What Happens During the Test?

A thorough medical history will be obtained. Your patient will be provided a gown, asked to disrobe from the waist up and to lie down on the ultrasound table. The technologist will apply a clear gel to the area of interest. If there is a palpable mass, the patient will be asked to identify the area of concern.

The sonographer (ultrasound technologist) or radiologist then presses the transducer against the skin and scans the breast. The transducer is a small hand-held device that resembles a microphone, attached to an ultrasound machine by a cord. The ultrasound image is available to the technologist.

The exam takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

After the Test

After the exam the gel is wiped off. Your patient may resume normal activities. After the test, the radiologist will review the images and results will be given to your patient.

The Results

A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within 1 business day.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. Jill Westercamp)

This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.