

# Thyroid Ultrasound



## What is a Thyroid Ultrasound?

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.

The thyroid gland is located in front of the neck just below the Adam's apple and is shaped like a butterfly, with two lobes on either side of the neck connected by a narrow band of tissue. It is one of the endocrine glands in the body that makes and sends hormones into the bloodstream.

## CPT Code

76536

## Indications

enlarged thyroid, palpable mass, abnormal thyroid enzymes, abnormalities seen on other modalities, dysphasia

## Contraindications

none

## How Does Your Patient Prepare?

No patient preparation is required prior to the exam.

## **What Happens During the Test?**

Our technologist will obtain a medical history. Your patient will be asked to lie down face up with her neck extended. The technician will place a clear gel on her neck to evaluate the thyroid and surrounding tissues.

The sonographer (ultrasound technologist) or radiologist then presses the transducer against the skin and sweeps it back and forth over the neck. The transducer is a small hand-held device that resembles a microphone, attached to an ultrasound machine by a cord.

The exam takes approximately 30 minutes.

## **After the Test**

After the exam the gel is wiped off. Your patient may resume normal activities.

## **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](http://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.*