Renal Ultrasound

What is a renal ultrasound?

A renal ultrasound takes pictures of your kidneys and bladder. It usually doesn't hurt. An ultrasound takes pictures that are black and white like x-rays, but the ultrasound does not use any radiation. The ultrasound pictures help your doctor learn about your kidneys and other organs.

How does it work?

You will lie down on a bed. A specially trained person called an ultrasonographer will put some clear liquid gel on your stomach or back. Then he or she will move a microphone over your stomach. You will not feel anything except the gel and some mild pressure from the microphone.

A radiologist is a doctor who is an expert on x-rays and ultrasounds. He or she will study the pictures, then give the results to your doctor.

What will happen after the ultrasound?

You can go back to normal activities as soon as the ultrasound is finished. You should ask for a visit with your doctor to discuss the results.

Modified by UNC Kidney Center June 2017, with permission by Robert S. Gillespie Copyright 2007.