ULTRASOUND
GALLBLADDER

OVERVIEW: Ultrasound imaging, also known as sonography, uses sound waves to produce images of the organs, vessels and tissues in the body. You should wear comfortable clothing on the day of your examination. You may or may not be asked to put on a hospital gown depending upon your procedure.

GALLBLADDER: To evaluate the gallbladder and biliary ducts for abnormalities such as stones, polyps, cholecystitis, etc.

PREP: Patient should be fasting for at least 4 hours and preferably 8 hours prior to scanning. Water is allowed unless other procedures require the patient to be NPO.

PROCEDURE: The sonographer will position you on an exam table and apply a special gel to your skin directly above the area being studied. The sonographer will move a device called a transducer over the gel-covered skin. The transducer sends out sound waves and receives echoes. These echoes are relayed to a computer for processing and displayed on a monitor as a picture for the sonographer to view. During the procedure, the sonographer may ask you to change the position of your body or to hold your breath for a few seconds so that certain images can be obtained. Selected pictures will be saved on film and given to a radiologist for interpretation. Imaging takes approximately 30 minutes.

RESULTS: After your ultrasound images have been reviewed by a radiologist, your ordering physician will contact you with the results in approximately 3 days. Your physician then will advise you of the results and discuss what further procedures, if any, are needed.