

Extremity Ultrasound



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What is an Extremity 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. Venous ultrasound provides pictures of the veins in the extremities that carry blood back to the heart.

CPT Code

76880

Indications

palpable mass or pain in the area of concern, popliteal fossa non vascular

Contraindications

none

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

Your patient should wear comfortable clothing.

What Happens During the Test?

Your patient may be asked to remove clothing in the area to be examined and may be given a gown. He will be scanned in a standing or supine position. A clear gel is applied to the area of concern.

The sonographer (ultrasound technologist) or radiologist presses the transducer against the skin and sweeps it back and forth over the area of concern. 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 procedure is quick and painless.

The test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete

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 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.