Renal transplant ultrasound exams are used to detect problems with your transplanted kidney. Read this handout to learn how to prepare for the exam, how it works, what you will feel during the exam, and how to get your results.

**What is a renal transplant ultrasound?**

A renal transplant ultrasound uses sound waves to take pictures of your transplanted kidney. Color Doppler ultrasound is used to check your kidney’s overall blood flow, and spectral Doppler ultrasound checks certain places within a blood vessel. The blood vessels inside the kidney and the vessels leading to and from the kidney are checked.

**How does the exam work?**

Ultrasound sends sound waves into your body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. After gel is applied to your skin, the sonographer (ultrasound technologist) presses the transducer against your skin. As the sound waves reflect back from your body’s fluids and tissues, a picture of your tissues is created.

**How should I prepare for a renal transplant ultrasound?**

Wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing.

**How is the exam done?**

1. You will lie on an exam table, with your clothing moved out of the way of where the transducer will be placed.
2. A warm gel is applied to your abdomen to help the transducer make contact with your skin.
3. The sonographer then presses the transducer against your skin and sweeps it over your lower abdomen to take the pictures.
Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. Clinic staff are also available to help.

☐ UWMC Imaging Services: 206-598-6200

☐ Harborview Imaging Services: 206-744-3105

4. The radiologist may take more pictures after the sonographer is done.

5. If a biopsy of your transplanted kidney is needed, you must have nothing by mouth for at least 6 hours before your exam. The nephrologist (kidney doctor) will use ultrasound to help see where to take the tissue samples. A kidney biopsy is a procedure where the doctor removes a tissue sample from the kidney and sends it to the lab to be studied.

What will I feel during the exam?

• Renal transplant ultrasound is fast, painless, and easy.

• You will feel the sonographer apply warm gel to your abdomen and press the transducer against your skin.

• You may be asked to roll onto either side or change positions.

• There is little or no discomfort with the exam. The exam usually takes less than 30 minutes.

Who interprets the results of the exam and how do I get them?

The radiologist, who specializes in ultrasound, will review the pictures and send the report to your doctor. You will receive the ultrasound results from your doctor who ordered the test. The radiologist may talk with you about early findings at the end of your exam.