

What is an Ultrasound of the Thyroid?

Ultrasound imaging, also called ultrasound scanning or [sonography](#), involves exposing part of the body to high-frequency sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Ultrasound exams do not use [ionizing radiation](#) (as used in [x-rays](#)). Because ultrasound images are captured in real-time, they can show the structure and movement of the body's internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels.

Ultrasound imaging is a noninvasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

An ultrasound of the thyroid produces a picture of the [thyroid gland](#). 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 nine [endocrine glands](#) located throughout the body that make and send [hormones](#) into the bloodstream.

How should I prepare?

You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing for your ultrasound exam. You may need to remove all clothing and jewelry in the area to be examined.

You may be asked to wear a gown during the procedure.

No other preparation is required