**Ultrasound-Abdomen (Gallbladder, RUQ Ultrasound)** - An abdominal ultrasound produces a picture of the organs and other structures in the upper abdomen. Ultrasound is used to help diagnose a variety of conditions such as: abnormal liver function enlarged abdominal organs, stones in the gallbladder, or an aneurysm in the aorta.

A Doppler ultrasound study may be part of an abdominal ultrasound examination. Doppler ultrasound is a special ultrasound technique that evaluates blood flow through a blood vessel, including the body's major arteries and veins in the abdomen.

You must be NPO *(nothing to eat or drink- including medications)* after midnight the day of the test. If you have an afternoon appointment you must be NPO 6 hrs before the test. You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the test.

You will lie on the exam table face up. A clear water-based gel is applied to the area of the body being studied to help the transducer (ultrasound probe) make secure contact with the body and eliminate air pockets between the transducer and the skin that can block the sound waves from passing into your body. The ultrasound technologist then presses the transducer firmly against the skin in various locations, sweeping over the area of interest or angling the sound beam from a farther location to see an area of concern better.

Images are captured on a monitor and later reviewed by the Radiologist (a doctor that reads x-rays) and a report will be sent to your ordering physician in 48 hours. The scan takes approximately 30 minutes.