

Anal Ultrasound

Who needs an anal ultrasound?

Patients may be asked to have an anal ultrasound if the physician is looking for abnormalities in

- sphincter defects (muscles in the anal area)
- a mass in the anus
- a path of a fistula (abnormal tunnel extending from the rectum to the vagina).

What is Anal Ultrasound?

Ultrasound uses sound waves that are reflected or bounced off different tissues. Due to differences in acoustic properties of these tissues, normal tissue, abnormal tissue & defects in tissue can be seen.

How is this performed?

You will be taken into a room & asked to change into a gown. You may leave all your clothes on the top of your body on. You will be asked to remove the lower portion of clothes on your body. You will be positioned on an exam table. The doctor will assemble the probe by filling the small balloon on the end of the ultrasound probe with water then covering the end of the probe with a balloon. The balloon is latex. **However, we do have non-latex balloons** available if you are allergic to latex. Please make a healthcare professional aware if you need a non-latex balloon. The probe will be lubricated before insertion into the anus. The examination usually takes 5–10 minutes, but on rare occasions may last up to 20 minutes. Your physician will explain the procedure as it is being performed. A nurse or medical assistant will be in the room throughout the procedure to assist you as needed. The procedure should produce no more discomfort than a traditional rectal exam.

How do I prepare for this examination?

If it has been 3 days since your last bowel movement, please use one 500 cc warm tap water enema to cleanse the rectum prior to the procedure. Enema bags can be purchased at any pharmacy. You will need to purchase some lubrication (KY jelly, surgical lube etc.). Warm water, not hot water, should be used. Instructions for using the enema should be on the bag. Use the enema 1½ hours before you leave your home.

Where do I go for this examination?

Your physician performs this test in the clinic. You will be going to the 1st floor of the Taubman Center, Area E. Your appointment confirmation letter will specify the location.

When will I get my results?

Your physician may discuss the results with you immediately after the procedure. However, the physician may prefer to correlate these results with other diagnostic tests that have been done, and may schedule a return visit at a future date to discuss the results.

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