

Ultrasound exams use sound waves to make pictures of the inside of the body. The exams do not use x-rays to make these pictures. The images are made in "real-time," so they can show movement and body parts inside of the body. The exam shows pictures in thin, flat sections. Other types of ultrasound pictures are used to check blood flow through your veins and arteries. This flow is shown by red and blue on the pictures.

Common uses for ultrasound include:

- Looking for a cause of pain or infection
- Checking an area of swelling
- Checking internal structures in the abdomen and pelvis
- Examining breast tissue
- Guiding needles during tissue sampling

At UNM Hospitals Radiology Department, only licensed technologists are allowed to perform ultrasound imaging. Students work directly with certified technologists.

