

Renal Bladder Ultrasound

A renal bladder ultrasound is a noninvasive diagnostic imaging study to assess the kidney, ureters, and bladder. Referred to as “jelly on the belly” this painless examination is the most commonly used imaging modality for children with urinary system concerns. Ultrasound, or sonogram, exposes the body to sound waves, which are reflected off tissues and organs to produce images onto a screen. No ionizing radiation is used with ultrasound.

Renal bladder ultrasounds are commonly used in children to detect congenital abnormalities of the urinary system and evaluate other urinary tract concerns.

Renal bladder ultrasounds may also detect/measure:

- Kidney size and position
- Kidney scarring
- Hydronephrosis (dilation of the kidney)
- Duplex (double) collecting system
- Ectopic (extra) ureter
- Kidney stones
- Dilation of the ureter (tube that drains urine from kidney to bladder)
- Bladder abnormalities including diverticula, stones, or masses.
- Measurement of postvoid residual (incomplete bladder emptying)
- Measurement of bladder wall thickness

Procedure:

Although usually performed in the hospital or the radiology department, renal bladder ultrasounds are sometimes performed in urology offices or in an outpatient office.

Your child will be asked to lie down on a table and expose their abdomen. This is not a painful procedure. No anesthesia or medication is involved. A water-based, clear gel will be placed on a hand held probe/transducer and then moved over abdomen and pelvis.

The procedure usually takes about 10-20 minutes, based on the type of examination.

Your child may be asked to drink water/fluids prior to the examination in order to capture an image of the bladder full of urine. After the image is captured, the technician/clinician will ask your child to go to the bathroom to urinate and return to capture an image after urination. This is called a pre- and post-void image.

See the next page for contact information.

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