



Ultrasound (US)

An ultrasound uses ultrasonic sound waves that travel through soft tissue and fluids to produce images of structures within the body.

Doctors use ultrasounds to show blood vessels, organs, and lymph nodes all over the body. Ultrasound imaging can be used to diagnose head and neck cancers and learn more about the size and features of existing tumors.

What to Expect

Ultrasounds are low-risk and painless diagnostic procedures. During your ultrasound, a technician or radiologist will place ultrasound gel over the area they wish to examine, and move a smooth plastic probe over the area. The probe produces sound waves and takes pictures. These pictures will appear on a computer screen in real-time. To get enough images of the structure, the technician will move the probe around at different angles. Ultrasounds usually take 15 to 30 minutes.

Advantages to Ultrasound

- Do not use any radiation.
- Do not cause pain or discomfort.
- Allow the technician to see images in real-time.
- Help doctors locate cells for a biopsy (known as an ultrasound-guided biopsy) that they can later examine under the microscope.

Disadvantages to Ultrasound

- Cannot be used to visualize areas hidden behind bone.
- Are not commonly used for visualizing head and neck cancers other than thyroid cancer.



Please note that this information is intended for educational purposes. It does not replace consultation with your doctor, and it should not be interpreted as medical advice. We encourage you to speak to your health care provider if you have further questions or concerns regarding your medical care.

For more information scan this code or visit:

<https://thangguide.org/cancer-basics/diagnosis/imaging/ultrasound/>