

# Thyroid Ultrasound

## Appointment Information

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## About

Radiologists perform a thyroid ultrasound exam to help diagnose a lump in the thyroid or a thyroid that is not functioning properly. The thyroid gland is located in front of the neck just below the Adam's apple and is shaped like a butterfly, with two lobes on either side of the neck. The thyroid is one of nine endocrine glands located throughout the body.

Typical uses of a thyroid ultrasound exam:

- To determine if a lump in the neck is arising from the thyroid or an adjacent structure.
- To analyze the appearance of thyroid nodules and determine if they are the more common benign nodule or if the nodule has features that require a biopsy.
- To see if a thyroid nodule has substantially grown over time.

Because ultrasound provides real-time images (images that are renewed continuously), it can also be used as a guide through procedures such as needle biopsies, in which needles are used to extract sample cells from an abnormal area for laboratory testing.

## Preparations

There is no special preparation required prior to a thyroid ultrasound exam.