ULTRASOUND
CHEST

OVERVIEW: Ultrasound imaging, also known as sonography, uses sound waves to produce images of the organs, vessels and tissues in the body. You should wear comfortable clothing on the day of your examination. You may or may not be asked to put on a hospital gown depending upon your procedure.

CHEST: To evaluate the chest for the presence and location of pleural fluid.

PREP: None.

PROCEDURE: The sonographer will position you on an examination table seated with your legs over the side. A special gel will be applied to your back directly above the area being studied. The sonographer will move a device called a transducer over the gel-covered skin. The transducer sends out sound waves and receives echoes. These echoes are relayed to a computer for processing and displayed on a monitor as a picture for the sonographer to view. If there is a significant pocket of fluid seen and your physician deems it necessary, we may proceed with an ultrasound guided thoracentesis. Selected pictures will be saved on film and given to a radiologist for interpretation. Imaging takes approximately 30 minutes (unless a thoracentesis is added).

RESULTS: After your ultrasound images have been reviewed by a radiologist, your personal physician will receive a report of the findings in 3-5 days. Your physician then will advise you of the results and discuss what further procedures, if any, are needed.