ABDOMINAL AORTA ULTRASOUND

Definition:
Abdominal ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce two-dimensional images of the body’s soft tissues, which are used for a variety of clinical applications, including diagnosis and guidance of treatment procedures. Ultrasound does not use ionizing radiation to produce images, and is safe, fast and versatile.

Why is this test performed?
This exam can be used look for an abdominal aortic aneurysm. An aneurysm is a weak bulging spot the wall of the artery. The aorta runs through the middle of your abdomen, along with the spine, and supplies blood to the lower half of you body.

Your physician may recommend the exam if you are at risk of abdominal aortic aneurysm (family history, smoker, high blood pressure, etc).

Risks:
None

How you prepare:
You will be asked not to eat or drink for at least 6 hours prior to the exam. Food and liquids in your stomach and urine in your bladder can make it difficult for the ultrasound technician to get a clear picture of your aorta.

What you can expect:
A typical ultrasound exam is painless and takes about 20 minutes to complete. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown for the procedure. During the exam, you lie on your back on an examination table and a small amount of warm gel is applied to your abdomen. The gel acts as a conductor and helps eliminate the formation of air pockets between your skin and the instrument (called a transducer,) used to see your aorta. The sonographer presses the transducer against your skin over your abdomen, moving from one area to another.

The transducer sends images to a computer screen that the technician monitors. The technician monitors blood flow through your abdominal aorta to check for an aneurysm and/or blockages in the Aorta or branches of the Aorta.

Results:
The reading physician will dictate a report and it will be faxed to the ordering physician. A copy of the report may be obtained from Health Information Management phone 270-762-1182. Only the patient or Guardian can sign for the report. Please bring a photo ID to pick up records.

Billing:
Murray-Calloway County Hospital will send a bill for performing the exam and the reading Physician will send a bill for reading the test.