

## Rectal and Anal Ultrasound

This ultrasound takes pictures of layers of tissues of the anal canal and rectum. It does not use radiation. It is done in your doctor's office. It is done by your doctor. Your doctor has been trained to do and interpret these exams.

### Common Reasons for the Procedure

Anal ultrasound is used to:

- Check the anal sphincter muscle for problems.
- Check an anorectal fistula.
- Reveal the path of the anorectal fistula.

Rectal ultrasound is used to:

- Evaluate pre-cancerous growths.
- Define stage of rectal cancer.
- Check rectal cancer after treatment.

### The Procedure

- You will lie on your left side with your knees bent.
- A probe about the size of a finger is gently inserted into the rectum.
- Pictures are taken when the probe is moved through the anal canal and the rectum.
- The rectal ultrasound uses a water filled balloon on the end of the probe.
- If you are allergic to latex, please let us know. We will use a latex free balloon.

### Preparing for the Procedure

- The procedure is painless.
- You do not need to be sedated.
- Fasting is not required.
- You can continue all your medicines.
- You do not need to take any laxative before the exam.
- You need to use one Fleet<sup>®</sup> enema 30 minutes before the test.

### After the Procedure

- Your doctor will discuss the results with you before you leave the office.
- Test results will be sent to your family doctor.
- You will be able to go home and continue your normal activities.