What Is MSK Ultrasound?

Ultrasound, or sonography is an imaging exam that uses high frequency sound waves to visualize structures with the body. MSK or Musculoskeletal Ultrasound is a specialized ultrasound exam to evaluate, muscles, tendons, nerves, ligaments, joints and bursae.

There are no known health risks associated with this technology and these exams are generally painless.

Advantages of Using Ultrasound Over MRI Include:

- Enables the sonographer to evaluate the area in different positions, which can provide more information on which to base a diagnosis
- Allows for a more thorough evaluation of motion-induced symptoms since ultrasound can be performed as the patient is moving
- Can be easier to identify the source of a problem because the patient can give the sonographer feedback during the exam
- Sonographers can compare tissue on both sides of the body
- Can detect minor abnormalities and small nerves that may be difficult to see on MRI
- Can be performed on patients who are medically unable to have an MRI, including those who are pregnant and/or have pacemakers, metal implants or claustrophobia
- A cost-effective alternative when clinically appropriate

Why Use Ultrasound Instead of X-ray, MRI And CT?

X-ray is a good exam for looking at bones but ultrasound is better-suited to looking at tissue.

MRI has been the traditional imaging exam used to diagnose musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions in the United States. Ultrasound has recently become an excellent option due to advancements in ultrasound technology. MSK ultrasound and MRI are viewed as complementary exams, each with its own advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages of Using Ultrasound Over Interventional Procedures Such as CT Include:

- No radiation exposure
- Safe during pregnancy
- Diagnosis and treatment can be done during the same appointment

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**Common Musculoskeletal Conditions Diagnosed by MSK Ultrasound:**

- Various types of arthritis
- Sports injuries
- Tendon tears and ruptures
- Ligament tears and strains
- Muscle abnormalities
- Soft tissue masses
- Compressed nerves
- Bursitis and Inflammation

**Specialized Exams. Specialized Training.**

MSK ultrasound has not yet gained wide-spread use in the United States because it requires specialized training. The many benefits of this innovative procedure are achieved only when the sonographer and Radiologists are experienced and properly trained.

Comprised of an experienced team of fellowship-trained MSK radiologists and Board Certified MSK Sonographers, Invision Sally Jobe is Denver’s only provider of diagnostic MSK ultrasound accredited by the Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM). We are proud and honored to offer this caliber of expertise and care to the Colorado community!

**Is MSK Ultrasound Right For Me?**

Your doctor is the best source of information on your care, including the proper procedure for your specific condition.

If you would like to learn more about MSK ultrasound and the conditions it can diagnose, learn more at:


**Will My Insurance Cover the Ultrasound Examination?**

In most cases, yes. Further consultation with your doctor is recommended.

**Will My Doctor Read the Examination or Will Someone Else?**

Your examination results will be read by a fellowship-trained musculoskeletal radiologist, a physician specifically trained to interpret the ultrasound. Like other types of examinations, the findings of your study will be shared with your doctor.

Talk to your doctor about whether MSK Ultrasound is right for you. Call us at 720-493-3700 to schedule your exam!