

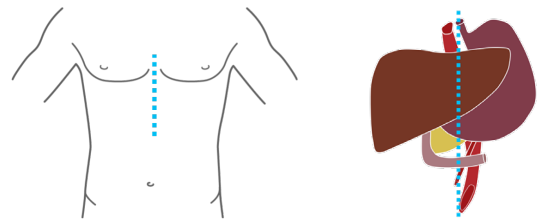
Gastrointestinal applications

ASSESSING THE STOMACH FOR NPO STATUS

Ultrasound of the stomach can provide more direct visualization of stomach contents. This is more reliable than a patient's history of last intake, and can guide an assessment of the risk of aspiration during a procedure.

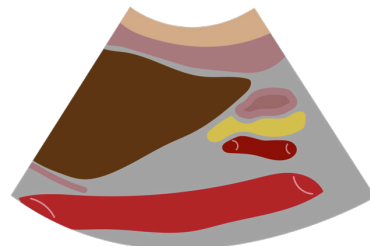
Technique

Use the curvilinear transducer in an adult, and the linear transducer for pediatric patients. Obtain a long-axis image in the subxiphoid region; fan left and right to obtain an image of the antrum. Placing the patient in the right lateral decubitus position will increase the sensitivity of the test.

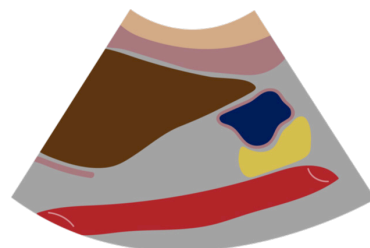
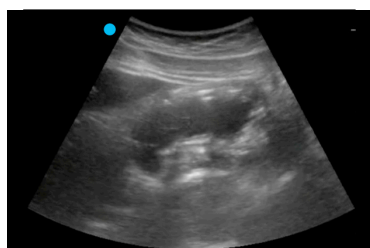


Findings

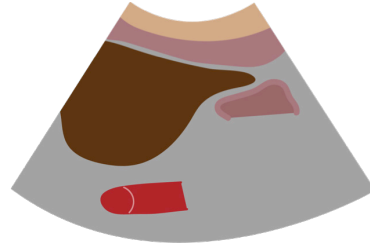
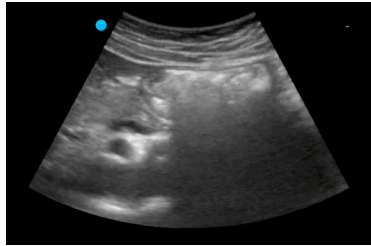
The goal of the examination is to recognize the antrum. It should be collapsed in an empty stomach.



A patient with simple fluid will have a distended, hypoechoic antrum.



Patients who have recently consumed solids may have entrained air; they have a characteristic appearance of shadowing air in the antrum that may preclude visualizing contents of the posterior wall of the stomach.



Patients who have ingested both liquids and solids can show a mixture of both hyper and hypoechoic contents.

