Ultrasonography vs. Ultrasound

_Ultrasonography_ and _ultrasound_ are often used interchangeably. However, they have different meanings.

_Ultrasonography_ is an imaging procedure that uses sound waves to form images of organs, tissues, and other internal structures, and _ultrasound_ refers to the sound waves used during the imaging procedure.\(^1\)

In informal writing and conversation, _ultrasound_ is often used in place of _ultrasonography_ to refer to the imaging procedure. However, in formal scientific writing, _ultrasonography_ is the preferred term.

**Incorrect:** A follow-up breast ultrasound revealed that the patient had multiple benign cysts in her left breast.

**Correct:** The physician ordered a diagnostic ultrasonography for his patient as part of her workup for severe back pain.

**Correct:** The ultrasound waves penetrated the patient’s body, resulting in an image that revealed several kidney stones.

**Reference**


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