What is a Musculoskeletal (MSK) Ultrasound?

An MSK ultrasound is a safe and painless imaging test that uses high-frequency sound waves to capture real-time pictures of your muscles, tendons, ligaments, nerves, and joints.

During the exam, a healthcare professional (specialist physiotherapist & MSK sonographer) will apply a water-based gel to your skin over the area being examined. They will then gently move a small handheld device, called a transducer, over the gel. You may be asked to move your joint or muscle during the exam to help us see how it functions in real-time.

Purpose of the Procedure

This procedure is being performed to help diagnose the cause of your symptoms (such as pain, swelling, or limited movement) in the requested area. It helps us to identify issues such as tears, inflammation, fluid build-up, or nerve entrapment.

Benefits, Risks, and Alternatives

- **Benefits:** Ultrasound is non-invasive, does not use ionizing radiation (like X-rays or CT scans), and provides clear, real-time images of soft tissues. It is highly effective for guiding future treatment plans.
- **Risks:** Diagnostic ultrasound is considered extremely safe with no known harmful effects to humans. The only potential discomfort may come from the mild pressure of the transducer on a tender or injured area.
- **Alternatives:** Alternatives to this procedure may include X-rays, MRI, CT scans, although each of these imaging modalities has their own strengths and weaknesses. The practitioner at Sonoscope Ltd. Will be able to discuss the pros and cons of the different imaging modalities and whether ultrasound will be a useful imaging modality for your condition.