The advent of diagnostic ultrasound has afforded a new imaging modality which is non invasive and applicable to a variety of organs within the body. In many instances this system is able to provide types of information unobtainable by other modalities without radiation or patient risk, and at relatively low cost . It also offers an easy and objective means of following the course of a known process. This may often be done on an out-patient basis, theraby helping to reduce medical care cost.

The obvious and most widely used application of senography with reference to the liver is in determining whether a mass is cystic or non cystic. It also has been very helpful in localizing the mass with surface skin marks and providing accurate depth information so that a closed needle aspiration may be performed. The intrahepatic masses may appear dense, lucent or bulls - eye sonographically.

The perihepatic spaces are commonly evaluated sonographically to determine the presence or absence of

an abscess. Because the process involves a fluid loculation ; it should not be surprising that sonography is useful and accurate in this regard. These spaces may also contain neoplasm , hematoma or ascites.

Hepatic fibrosis, bilharzial or non bilharzial can also be accurately and non invasively diagnosed.