

Your Pelvic Ultrasound Scan

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This leaflet is designed to answer some of the questions you may have about your forthcoming ultrasound examination. Whilst we endeavour to scan every patient at their allocated time, some scans may take longer than expected which can unfortunately result in a delay. If, after reading this, you still have any worries or queries, please telephone the diagnostic imaging department appointments office on (01493) 452456 between 8:30am – 5pm Monday – Friday.

What is a pelvic ultrasound examination?

Ultrasound is a very safe and painless method of examining parts of the body using high frequency sound waves, which produce a picture on screen.

How do I prepare for my ultrasound examination?

You should attend with a comfortably full bladder. Ideally you need to drink plenty of water at least one hour before your examination. Without a full bladder your scan may not be able to be completed.

How is the examination performed?

Your scan may be carried out by either a sonographer or a consultant radiologist (a doctor who specialises in diagnostic imaging). A sheet of tissue paper will be placed over the top of your legs to protect your clothing from ultrasound gel.

Gel will be applied to your skin and is easily wiped off at the end of your examination. This gel is water soluble and will not cause harm to your skin or clothing. The lights will be dimmed so the ultrasound screen can be seen more easily. The probe will be scanned across the skin of your lower abdomen. This should be painless.

Often the radiologist / sonographer will also be required to perform an internal transvaginal scan. This is another ultrasound camera that is inserted into the vagina, where a tampon would be placed. This scan should not give you any discomfort. There are no other instruments involved and no samples will be taken during this scan. If you are having any bleeding at the time of scan it will not affect the examination and can still be performed. This internal scan will only be performed with your consent and in certain cases it may not be appropriate; this will be discussed with you during the examination.



Your scan may last between 20-30 minutes. It is expected that friends and relatives remain outside the examination room unless the patient is under 16 years old or has a severe physical or mental disability. Chaperones will be offered for the internal transvaginal scan.

How do I receive my results?

The radiologist / sonographer will need to concentrate carefully and it is unlikely that they will speak during the examination. It will not be possible to give you any results on the day of the scan or be able to tell you anything about any further treatment which may be required. This would be decided by your own doctor. You will be informed of how you will receive the results of your scan at the end of the appointment.

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This leaflet was produced by the Ultrasound Department as a service to patients.

Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

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The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

For a large print version of this leaflet, contact PALS 01493 453240