



PELVIC ULTRASOUND

(Sonogram)

WHAT IS THIS TEST?

A special way to take pictures to see internal structures of the body by sending high frequency sound waves through the skin.

WHY IS THIS TEST DONE?

Information obtained from a manual pelvic exam alone may be incomplete because of variations of body anatomy. With pelvic sonograms, anatomy is more objectively seen and can help your doctor explain findings from your pelvic exam or obtain additional information.

BEFORE THIS TEST

A full bladder is required, so you are asked to drink 24-32 oz of fluid 60 minutes before your scheduled exam time. The reason for this is that high frequency sounds waves used in Ultrasound will travel well through fluid but not through gas or air. Since the uterus is located in the pelvis behind loops of bowel containing gas and air, it is important to fill the urinary bladder with fluids to displace the bowel and provide a clear view of the pelvic organs.

DURING THIS TEST

There are two (2) methods of performing a Pelvic Ultrasound: abdominal and vaginal.

In abdominal sonography, to provide better contact between the transducer (scanner) and the skin, a gel-like material is applied to your skin and the instrument is then placed on the skin surface to obtain the pictures. You will then be asked to empty your bladder.

Vaginal sonography involves the insertion of a transducer into the vagina. The tip of the transducer is usually smaller than the standard speculum used when your doctor performs a routine pap smear test. A protective cover is placed over the transducer, which is then lubricated with a small amount of gel. The sonographers will ask you to assist in inserting the transducer into the vagina, as you would a tampon.

There is no pain involved in these Ultrasound examinations although there may be some discomfort from maintaining a full bladder.

AFTER THE TEST

You can resume your regular activity and diet **UNLESS YOU ARE TOLD NOT TO.**

You may be asked to wait while the pictures are developed.

For questions or concerns, call (814) 877-6182.

TEST RESULTS

The results of the test will be sent to your doctor. The results cannot be given to you by the sonographer administering the test.