

ULTRASOUND OF THE PELVIS

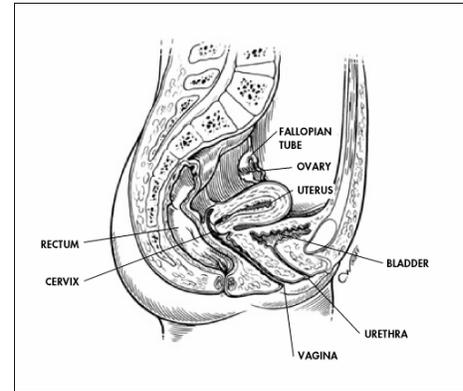
Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

Ultrasound of the pelvis will provide images of the uterus, ovaries, and bladder. There are two methods of performing pelvic ultrasound: abdominal and vaginal. Your physician may use either of these methods to obtain information about the pelvic organs. Abnormal bleeding, fibroids, or possible cysts or tumors may be indications for your physician to order a pelvic ultrasound.

In the transabdominal approach, gel is placed on the abdomen and the transducer makes secure contact with the skin. The technologist passes the transducer firmly against the abdomen and sweeps it back and forth to image the pelvic area.

In the vaginal approach, a transducer is placed into the vagina. The tip on the transducer is smaller than the standard speculum, used to perform a vaginal exam at your physician's office. The images are obtained from different orientations to get the best views of the uterus and ovaries.



How should I prepare for this test?

Your physician will instruct you to have completed drinking 32 ounces of water 45 minutes to one hour before your appointment time so the bladder will be full during your exam. A full bladder helps with the visualization of the uterus, ovaries, and bladder wall.

How is the test performed?

Either of the two methods described above may be utilized. When doing vaginal scans, the probes are covered with a protective cover. Your cooperation is very important during this exam. The technologist will communicate the process of the entire procedure to assure your comfort and privacy.

How will this test affect me?

You should not experience any more discomfort than you would during a routine gynecological exam. The technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have.

How will I receive results of the test?

Results will be sent to your physician who will discuss the results with you.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS