

What is a Pelvic Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is a safe and painless procedure that produces images of the inside of the body using sound waves. Ultrasound images of the pelvic region provide pictures of the uterus, ovaries and adnexal areas. Ultrasound imaging, also called Sonography, involves the use of a small transducer (probe) and ultrasound gel placed directly on the skin. The transducer collects the sounds that bounce back and a computer then uses those sound waves to create an image. A Doppler ultrasound study may be part of a pelvic ultrasound examination. Doppler ultrasound is a special ultrasound technique that evaluates blood flow within certain organs or vessels.

What are some common uses of the procedure?

Pelvic ultrasound exams are also used to monitor the health and development of an embryo or fetus during pregnancy.

Pelvic ultrasound can be helpful in evaluating:

- Pelvic pain
- Abnormal bleeding
- Palpable masses such as ovarian cysts and uterine fibroids
- Ovarian or uterine cancers

How should I prepare for a Pelvic Ultrasound?

- Please wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing for your ultrasound exam. You may need to remove some clothing and jewelry in the area to be examined.
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown for the procedure.
- You may be asked to drink up to 32 ounces of water 1 hour before the exam to fill your bladder.

How is the procedure performed?

- For most ultrasound exams, you will be positioned lying comfortably on your back
- The sonographer will apply a warm water-based gel to the area of the body being studied.
- The transducer is moved back and forth over the area of interest until the desired images are captured. Ultrasound exams do not involve radiation exposure.
- Transabdominal ultrasound is performed on top of the skin surface.
- Transvaginal ultrasound is performed by inserting a specialized transducer into the vagina.

What will I experience during and after the procedure?

- There is usually no discomfort from pressure as the transducer is pressed against the area being examined. However, if scanning is performed over an area of tenderness, you may feel pressure or minor pain from the transducer.
- Our radiologist will interpret your exam, analyze the images and send a report to your ordering healthcare provider within 24 hours.