



Fertility Patient information

Pelvic Ultrasound for Fertility

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to generate images of the organs and soft tissue structures inside your abdomen. Ultrasound does not use radiation or xrays to produce these images and it has no known medical side effects at the frequencies used.

Your ultrasound will assess the uterus, ovaries, endometrium (lining of the uterus) and the adjoining pelvic areas to exclude pathology and structural reasons for infertility.

Your scan needs to be performed between day 2 – 6 of your menstrual cycle (day 1 is the first day of your period). This is so that there is no 'functional' cysts associated with ovulation present on your ovaries and the lining of your uterus is at its thinnest. You may still be menstruating at the time of your scan but this is of no issue.

Preparation

You will be required to drink 1 litre of water prior to your examination. This allows the bladder to fill and helps to visualise the bladder and other structures of the pelvis. Do not go to the toilet once you have commenced drinking the water.

What to expect

Our ultrasound rooms are dimly lit to reduce the amount of 'glare' on our ultrasound monitors. You may be asked to change into a patient gown so that we can easily access your abdomen and asked to lie on our ultrasound bed. A warm gel is applied to your tummy which enables us to send the sound waves through the skin to form the image.

A series of pictures are taken to document your pelvic organs through your full bladder. Once these pictures have been taken, you will be able to empty your bladder completely.

The second component of your gynaecological pelvic ultrasound is a transvaginal (internal) scan. The level of detail required to exclude abnormalities cannot be seen through your bladder. This scan is performed with an empty bladder and a slender probe that is inserted into the vagina. Transvaginal ultrasounds are usually well tolerated and not as uncomfortable as a PAP smear. During the transvaginal ultrasound, your Sonographer will take detailed images of your uterus and count all the follicles ("eggs") on your ovaries.

The Radiologist (specialist doctor) will then review the ultrasound images to make sure that the examination is of the highest quality. Sometimes the Radiologist will come into the ultrasound room to see your scan in 'real time'.

Allow up to 45 minutes for your examination. Once the examination is complete you may go back to your normal activities.

What to bring

You must always bring your request form from your doctor. Please note that we accept all radiology request forms. If you have any previous xrays or ultrasounds that may be relevant to your examination, please bring these with you as they can sometimes help to give a more accurate assessment of your presenting condition.

Always bring your Medicare card and any other concession cards.

Who does my xray?

A university trained Sonographer performs your ultrasound scan. They are highly trained professionals that know how to achieve the best quality images to assess your area of concern. A Radiologist (a doctor who is a specialist at interpreting the images) looks at all the ultrasound images taken with your medical history to produce a diagnostic report.

When will I get the report?

Your report will be delivered to your referring practitioner and will be there by 1pm on the following business day. If you require your results any earlier, please advise our reception staff and we will ensure they are ready for you.

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You will be required to
pay for your appointment
on the day.

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