

Pelvic ultrasound incorporating transabdominal (TA), transvaginal (TV) and renal scans

This leaflet has been produced to give you information about ultrasound scans performed for pelvic/gynaecological problems. If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact the ultrasound department.

What is ultrasound?

Ultrasound consists of high frequency sound waves that cannot be heard by the human ear. These waves are given out by a transducer and pass harmlessly into the body. They are reflected by the internal organs and are converted into a picture which is viewed on a TV monitor by the person performing the scan.

The scan

A routine pelvic scan includes a transabdominal (TA) scan of your womb and ovaries and a renal (kidney) scan. A transvaginal (TV) scan is also offered if appropriate.

The TA and renal scans require lubricating gel to be smeared on your skin and a small transducer moved gently over the area being scanned. You require a full bladder for the first part of the scan.

How do I prepare for the scan?

A full bladder is required so you will be asked to have **finished drinking one and a half pints of water a full hour before your appointment time.**

Do not empty your bladder until you are asked to do so.

PLEASE ATTEND FOR YOUR SCAN ON TIME AND ALLOW EXTRA TIME FOR PARKING AS SPACES ARE LIMITED.

It may not be possible to perform your scan if you arrive late or your bladder is not full. A further appointment would then be arranged.

What is transvaginal (TV) ultrasound?

A transvaginal (or internal scan) is when the tip of a specially designed transducer is inserted gently into the vagina.

Why is it performed?

Because the transducer is closer to the womb and ovaries it generally gives more detailed views. It is especially useful to monitor changes in the lining of your womb and ovaries. It can be performed at any stage of the menstrual cycle and menopause, after hysterectomy and during pregnancy.

What should I expect?

Your consent will be obtained before the procedure and you will only be asked to have a TV scan if you have had a vaginal (internal) examination previously.

After emptying your bladder and removing your underwear you will lie on the couch, covered with a sheet. The scan will be performed by a sonographer (a radiographer who is trained in ultrasound) or specialist doctor.

An adult may come into the room with you if you wish.

What does it involve?

The transducer is slightly thicker than your thumb and is covered with a clean sheath and lubricated with clear gel to make insertion easier. (Please inform the sonographer if you have a latex allergy.) The tip is inserted into the vagina and then moved gently around until the best images have been obtained. The transvaginal scan usually takes less than 10 minutes and you can leave immediately afterwards.



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Does it hurt?

No. It should be a painless procedure and you should tell the sonographer/doctor immediately if you feel any discomfort.

When do I get the results?

A scan report will be sent to the doctor who referred you. Before you leave you will be told how to obtain your results. If your scan is performed during a visit to clinic your results will usually be discussed with you at the time.

We are committed to providing high quality care. If you have a suggestion, comment, complaint or appreciation about the care you have received, or if you need this leaflet in another format please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on: **01924 542972** or email: myh-tr.palsmidyorks@nhs.net

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