
Radiology / Ultrasound Patient Information Leaflet

Gynaecological Pelvic and Transvaginal Ultrasound Scan

What is an Ultrasound Scan?

Sound travels in waves. Ultrasound is a soundwave, which travels at a higher frequency than we can hear.

Ultrasound machines form pictures by listening to how these sound waves interact with the different surfaces (tissues) within the human body. These ultrasound waves are sent into the body by moving a transducer over the surface of the skin. The pictures produced are interpreted by a practitioner, usually a sonographer or radiologist, who is highly trained in this speciality.

Ultrasound scans can be used to diagnose a variety of conditions.

Pelvic ultrasound scans can monitor changes in the uterus (womb) and the ovaries. There are two ways of performing a pelvic scan:

Transabdominal Ultrasound Scan (TAS)

For this type of scan you will be asked to drink water to fill your bladder. The ultrasound probe is placed on the skin in the lower part of your tummy. This type of scan may be enough to gain all the information required, however sometimes a transvaginal scan will be offered if we need to gain more detailed information.

Transvaginal Ultrasound Scan (TVUS)

For this type of scan you will be asked to empty your bladder. You will be asked to remove your underwear for the examination and you will be covered by a sheet to maintain dignity and privacy. A special slim probe is placed into the vagina. The vaginal probe is cleaned before use, covered with a protective sheath, and lubricated with sterile jelly to make its insertion into the vagina easier and more comfortable. The probe is inserted very gently into the vagina. It is usually a painless procedure and will feel very similar to having an internal examination (but no speculum is used).

This examination can be performed at any time of life – in pregnancy, during menstruation (period) or after the menopause.

If you have any questions about the procedure, please discuss this with the staff performing the examination or contact the booking team on Tel: xxxx xxx xxx who will arrange for a member of the clinical team to contact you prior to your appointment.

