

# Transvaginal Ultrasound

### Pelvic Ultrasound

Your Doctor has referred you for an ultrasound examination of the pelvic organs – in particular the uterus, cervix, endometrium and the ovaries. Pregnancy can also be assessed in this way. After examining your pelvic organs through your full bladder, the sonographer performing your examination will let you know if a transvaginal examination will improve the accuracy of your diagnosis.

### What is a transvaginal ultrasound?

A transvaginal ultrasound provides a very close and detailed view of the pelvic organs, by viewing these organs with a transvaginal probe placed inside your vagina.

### Why do I need a transvaginal ultrasound?

The test may be requested by your doctor if you have symptoms of pelvic pain or abnormal bleeding, or to check for fibroids (muscle tumours of the uterus), polyps (areas of thickening of the lining of the uterus), ovarian cysts or tumours, infertility, or assessment of early pregnancy.

### What preparation is required?

No preparation is required. Before the transvaginal scan is done you will be asked to empty your bladder.

If you are using a tampon this will need to be removed. If you are having your period or bleeding this does not affect the examination but you may wish to rebook on another day if you prefer.

### What documentation is required?

You will be asked for your consent before a transvaginal scan is done and you have the right to refuse. You may ask for a chaperone and/or a female sonographer if you prefer.

### What you need to tell us prior to your appointment?

Please inform us if you would prefer a female sonographer, so this can be accommodated at the time of booking.

### What will happen during the examination?

The transvaginal probe will have been disinfected and a protective cover (condom) is placed over it and lubricating gel applied.

You will be asked to insert the ultrasound probe into the vagina yourself and a gown will be provided to cover yourself. The sonographer will explain and assist if you need assistance.

You can ask for a friend or spouse to accompany you during the scan if you prefer.

### How long will the examination take?

The scan takes about 10-15 minutes.

### What can you expect after your examination?

There should be no ill effects after the examination. You will be able to resume normal activities.

### Are there any risks?

Ultrasound scans use high frequency sound to produce images. No ionising radiation is used. Ultrasound has been used in medicine since the 1950s and there have been no confirmed adverse effects attributed to diagnostic ultrasound exposure in that time.

If you are pregnant a transvaginal scan may help improve detail, especially in early pregnancy.

If you are pregnant, there are no risks to the foetus (unborn baby). If you are pregnant and your waters have broken, but you are not in labour (this is called premature rupture of the membranes), it is not advisable to have an ultrasound due to a small increase in the risk of infection to your unborn baby.

If you are pregnant and known to have an abnormally low-lying placenta (called placenta praevia) and you are experiencing vaginal bleeding, it is not advised to have a transvaginal ultrasound, as it could make the bleeding worse.

Please inform us if you are **allergic to latex** and a latex free condom or probe cover will be used.

### What happens with the images and report?

A report will be provided directly to your referring doctor.

We will store digital copies of all studies and reports on our secure patient information system for comparison with future examinations.

For branch contact details and other services, please visit our website [ncrg.com.au](http://ncrg.com.au)