

WHAT IS A PELVIC ULTRASOUND?

A pelvic ultrasound provides pictures of the structures and organs in the lower abdomen and pelvis. There are two types of pelvic ultrasounds: abdominal (transabdominal) and vaginal (transvaginal, endovaginal) for women.

Abdominal pelvic ultrasounds are most often performed to evaluate the: uterus and ovaries, of women. Doppler ultrasound exam may be part of a pelvic ultrasound examination.

A transvaginal ultrasound is usually performed to view the endometrium or the lining and thickness of the uterine cavity and the ovaries. Transvaginal ultrasound also provides a good way to evaluate the muscular walls of the uterus.

WHAT TO EXPECT

You will lie on the exam table face up. A clear water-based gel is applied to the area of the body being studied to help the transducer (ultrasound probe) make secure contact with the body and eliminate air pockets between the transducer and the skin that can block the sound waves from passing into your body. The ultrasound technologist then presses the transducer firmly against the skin in various locations, sweeping over the area of interest or angling the sound beam from a farther location to see an area of concern better. Images are captured on a monitor and later reviewed by the radiologist.

The scan takes approximately 45 minutes.

HOW TO PREPARE

Follow these guidelines:

- Adults will be asked to drink 32 ounces of water 1 hour before the test. Children are to drink 24 ounces of water.
- Once the bladder is full, **DO NOT URINATE** until the test is complete.
- Depending on the part of your body getting the ultrasound, you may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and change into a hospital gown

RESULTS

A radiologist will review your images and send a report to your doctor who ordered the test in 48 hours. You'll get a call from your doctor's office to discuss the results and next steps. To check your results in our secure, online patient portal, My UNC Chart, visit www.myuncchart.org.