

## Examinations Available

### *General Ultrasound*

Abdomen, Renal, Breast, Thyroid,  
Testes

### *Obstetric & Gynaecological*

First, Second & Third Trimester,  
First Trimester Screening, (NT  
Down Syndrome Screening), Pelvic

### *Musculoskeletal*

Shoulder, Groin, Hip, Ankle etc  
(cortisone injections)

### *Vascular*

Deep Vein Thrombosis, Arterial  
Studies, Renovascular, Carotid  
Duplex, Abdominal Aorta

### *Echocardiography*

Adult & Paediatric

## Appointment Times

8.30 am—5.00 pm  
Monday to Friday

Appointments can be made during  
office hours which are:

9.00 am to 5.00 pm  
Monday to Friday

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## Pelvic Ultrasound (Transvaginal) Patient Information



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Fetal Medicine Foundation—NT accredited  
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## What Is A Transvaginal Ultrasound?

An ultrasound image is produced by the reflection of sound waves. Sound waves are sent into the body via a transducer, (probe), which is a small hand-held device placed on the relevant body part by the sonographer.

A moving black and white image appears on the ultrasound screen, (similar to a television screen), allowing the sonographer to examine different body parts.

The success of the examination is limited by the ability of the sound waves to reach the area of interest. The closer these sound waves are to the organs, the more detailed the resulting images.

Examination of the female pelvis can be performed via vaginal ultrasound or transabdominally (with the transducer being placed on the stomach). However, as the ovaries and uterus lie deep beneath the abdominal surface it can be difficult to obtain clear images transabdominally and vaginal examination is preferred.

Your doctor can often obtain more information from a transvaginal ultrasound examination than from scanning through the abdomen. A vaginal transducer brings the ultrasound beam very close to the uterus and ovaries, making it much easier to obtain detailed images of the pelvic organs.

In most instances, transvaginal ultrasound will be offered in preference

to transabdominal ultrasound.

Transvaginal ultrasound is used, for example to check for infertility problems, ectopic (tubal) pregnancies, first trimester pregnancies, examining the lining of the uterus in abnormal bleeding and examining the ovaries of post-menopausal women for ovarian cancer.

## Who Will Perform the Examination?

These examinations are carried out and interpreted by Dr. Vlastic (a sonographer and doctor trained in performing and reading ultrasounds).

## Is Ultrasound Safe?

There are no known harmful effects associated with the medical use of sonography. Widespread clinical use of diagnostic ultrasound for many years has not revealed any harmful effects.

## Preparation

Once the decision has been made to perform a transvaginal ultrasound you will be asked to empty your bladder.

When a transabdominal (pelvic) ultrasound is requested, a full bladder is necessary to provide a clear window to the uterus. For this you will need to drink 500ml of fluid 1 hour before your appointment. Do not void until after the examination.

## Procedure

For the transvaginal ultrasound examination the transducer is covered in a disposable, protective rubber sheath. The insertion of the vaginal transducer is similar to the insertion of the vaginal speculum that most women have experi-

enced, during a Pap smear examination.

Once the transducer is in position, the sonographer moves it to image the pelvic organs. Only a small portion of the transducer will be placed in the vagina. The transducer's long length provides a handle for the sonographer to grasp.

The transvaginal ultrasound examination is recognised as being safe, with minimal discomfort.

## Examination & Reporting time

Ultrasound examinations usually take approximately 15 minutes, and after the procedure the results will be reported in 5 - 10 minutes.

We strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your ultrasound report with you.

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