

Diagnostic Imaging Department

**FEMALE PELVIC ULTRASOUND**

**Preparation for the scan**

**YOUR BLADDER MUST BE FULL at the time of your scan** in order that your pelvic organs can be clearly seen and adequately examined.

Please drink **1 litre of fluid** an hour before your appointment time.

**The examination**

Clear gel will be applied to the skin over the area to be examined. This helps transmit the sound through the skin. The gel is water-soluble, washes off easily, and will not stain clothing. The ultrasound probe, which is a small, smooth, hand-held instrument, is run over the skin to produce pictures on a screen.

To allow easy access to the pelvic area, please wear loose fitting clothes.

The examination is not painful, although some gentle pressure may be applied to the abdomen.

The examination will take on average 10 – 20 minutes and there are no side or after effects.

**Transvaginal scan**

This type of scan may be performed if more detailed images are required of the uterus and ovaries.

You will be requested to empty your bladder after we have obtained the images for the first part of the scan. You will be asked to remove your underwear and then made comfortable on a couch in a position, which allows a transvaginal scan to be performed easily. This is an internal scan where the tip of a small ultrasound probe is gently inserted into the vagina. The vaginal probe is disinfected before use, covered with a protective sheath and lubricated with gel to make its insertion into the vagina easy.

By moving the probe gently in different directions the pelvic structures can be seen. The procedure is not painful.

This part of the scan usually takes 5 – 10 minutes.