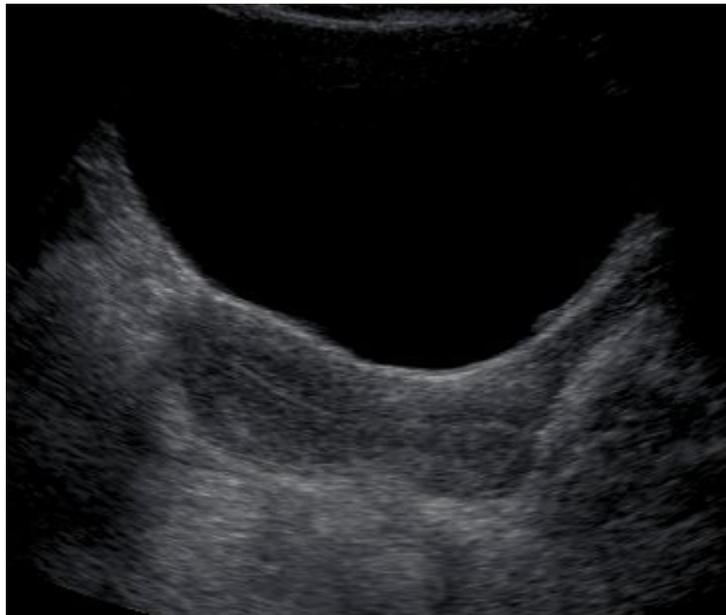


## Pelvic Ultrasound

### What is a pelvic ultrasound?

A pelvic ultrasound is an exam to evaluate the pelvic organs. This includes your uterus, ovaries, or bladder.



### How does the ultrasound work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. For the exam, the sonographer will apply warm gel to your pelvis and place the transducer against your skin to take pictures. When the sound waves reflect back to the transducer from inside the body, an image is created on the screen. Ultrasound does NOT use radiation.

### How should I prepare?

- You will need to have a full bladder at the time of the exam (typically three 8-ounce glasses of water)
- Wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to take off and put on
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### How long will it take?

- 45 to 60 minutes

### What are some reasons a doctor may order an ultrasound?

- Pelvic pain

- Vaginal bleeding
- Look for pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)
- Find an intrauterine device (IUD)
- Look at the size and shape of the uterus and the thickness of the uterine lining (endometrium)
- Look at the size and shape of the ovaries
- Check a lump found during a pelvic examination
- Evaluate uterine fibroids
- Other

### **What will happen during the exam?**

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown so that the ultrasound gel does not get on your clothes. You will lie on your back while the sonographer applies the warm gel to your lower abdomen and move the transducer around to take pictures. If you are 18 years of age and older, have ever been sexually active, or by specific request from your doctor, we perform a transvaginal ultrasound. This is a transducer that is inserted into your vagina. It allows for a more detailed evaluation of your pelvis. The ultrasound is fairly easy and you should experience little to no pain. If you are having pain, you may feel some discomfort during the exam, so please let the sonographer know if this occurs.

### **How will I get the results?**

After all of the images are obtained, they are reviewed by a radiologist who specializes in ultrasound. They will send the results to your doctor who ordered the exam. In some cases, the radiologist may review the preliminary results with you after the exam is over.