

Pelvic & Lower Abdominal Ultrasound scan

An ultrasound scan is an examination that involves taking pictures of the body using sound waves. Ultrasound can be used to look at all soft tissue structures and blood vessels. Pulses of ultrasound are sent through the skin into your body which then echo (bounce back), creating an image. The scan is carried out by a sonographer and the images recorded and interpreted to make a diagnosis. There are no side effects from having an ultrasound.

What is it?

An ultrasound is similar to a scan that women have during pregnancy. It involves putting some jelly on the area to be scanned and running a probe over the surface of the skin.

How long will it take?

Please allow ½ hour for this examination

Do I need to do anything?

1. Please drink at least 2 pints of fluid, one hour before your appointment time (no fizzy drinks).
2. It is important not to empty your bladder until after your scan as allows us to see your organs more effectively.

If you are unable to drink this amount of fluid due to heart or kidney disease, please contact us.

Will there be any side effects?

No, there are not side effects from having this investigation. You can continue with you day to day activities (such as driving) following your appointment.

Information for female patients having a pelvic scan

An ultrasound examination of the pelvis can be done either externally or internally. Sometimes the pelvic organs are seen better with the use of an internal probe, the tip is inserted into the vagina after the bladder has been emptied. A sterile sheath is applied to the probe before insertion and jelly is applied to aid its introduction. The probe is slightly larger than a tampon and inserted in the same way causing minimal discomfort.

If your appointment is likely to coincide with your period this does not affect the scan, but if you feel uncomfortable having a scan at this time please telephone us on the number at the top of your appointment letter to arrange an alternative date.