

# Ultrasound Scan Abdomen Pelvis

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 and have nothing to eat 6 hours before your appointment, you can drink water (add squash to taste) up to the time of your appointment.

## **Do I need to do anything?**

To visualise the pelvic organs it is important to have a full bladder. Please drink at least 2 pints of water 1 hour prior to your appointment and do not go to the toilet.

If you are unable to drink this amount of fluid due to heart or kidney disease, or if you are a diabetic and do not have an early morning appointment please contact us.

## **Will there be any side effects?**

No, there are not side effects from having this investigation. You can continue with your 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. The procedure is usually painless but may occasionally cause minimal discomfort.

This type of examination is not performed in very young women.

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.