

Imaging Department **Pelvic Ultrasound**

Your doctor has ordered a Pelvic Ultrasound* for you. This is an exam of your pelvic area, which includes your cervix, uterus, ovaries, and surrounding adnexal region. There are a few things you should know about your exam.

PREPARATION: In order to visualize the pelvic organs, a full bladder is necessary for the first part of this exam. Adults need to finish drinking 32 ounces of fluid, 45 minutes *before* the exam start time. (For example: If your appointment is at 2 p.m., you need to finish drinking all fluids by 1:15 p.m.). Please avoid carbonated and caffeinated beverages. To avoid painfully over-filling your bladder, you may want to urinate right *before* you start drinking the 32 ounces of fluid. Children 12 and under can drink 20 ounces instead of 32 ounces.

Your bladder may become uncomfortable, but do not empty your bladder until the exam is done. Please speak with an Imaging colleague if you believe you *cannot* hold your bladder and *must* urinate.

This exam needs to be scheduled before a barium study, special procedure (including endoscopies), and/or abdominal/pelvic CT scan.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety, you will be asked a number of questions by the sonographer and/or radiologist. Possible questions include, but are not limited to:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Any previous surgeries? Medical history?
- Date of your last menstrual period and whether or not you are or may be pregnant?

THE TEST: You will be asked to lay on your back for this procedure. You may be asked to roll on your side or hold your breath for images. The sonographer will apply gel and rub an imaging camera around on your abdomen to evaluate the above mentioned organs. You will need to lie in position for 30-60 minutes. If you have discomfort with this position, the sonographer will attempt to make you more comfortable.

AFTER YOUR TEST: The sonographer must take 5-10 minutes to review your images with the radiologist, to make sure no additional imaging is needed before you leave. There are no restrictions from the Ultrasound Department after your test.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your images in great detail and dictate a report. It will then be transcribed for your ordering physician and faxed to his/her office within 48 business hours so that he/she may review and discuss it with you. Your sonographer is unable to give you results at the time of testing.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your examination. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the Imaging staff at (574) 364-2819.

*An endovaginal/transvaginal ultrasound exam is almost always done in addition to the pelvic ultrasound. The endovaginal/transvaginal exam is required by the radiologist or your physician to provide more information and complete the diagnosis. Please refer to the "Endovaginal/ Transvaginal Ultrasound" sheet for more information.