



A typical Pelvic Ultrasound Image

Your Appointment is:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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If you have any other questions,  
please do not hesitate to contact  
us or your referring doctor

**Penrith Imaging Branches**  
Abdominal Ultrasounds are conducted at the  
branches below

16-18 Castlereagh Street,  
Penrith 2750  
Phone: (02) 4731 6977  
Fax: (02) 4721 2756

Suite 4, Ground Floor  
68 Derby Street,  
Penrith 2750  
Phone: (02) 4737 3300  
Fax: (02) 4737 3301

**Pelvic  
Ultrasound**

Patient  
Information

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## What is a Pelvic Ultrasound?

Ultrasound examinations use sound waves to produce an image which the radiologist can interpret. Ultrasound is high frequency sound. It passes into the body from an ultrasound probe and the sound is reflected off the internal organs. The ultrasound machine changes the returning echoes into visible images and displays them on a television screen. Images on the display screen can be recorded on film. A full bladder is required to lift the bowel out of the pelvis, thereby allowing the sound waves to pass through the liquid in the bladder so that images of the uterus and ovaries may be obtained. A transvaginal scan is normally performed as well. The bladder is emptied before a transvaginal scan is performed. Each method has its advantages. The abdominal approach gives a panoramic view of all the pelvic organs showing their size and relationship to each other. Because the probe is closer to the organs being examined, more detail may be achieved with a transvaginal scan.

## How do I make an appointment?

These examinations are available at any of the branches shown on the back of this leaflet. Appointments are usually required as specific preparation is necessary.

## Do I need to do anything?

You will be required to empty your bladder 2 hours before appointment time. Then drink 1 litre of water over the first hour. Make sure you have finished the water one hour before your appointment time. **DO NOT EMPTY YOUR BLADDER BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT.** You may eat normally.

## What happens?

Pelvic ultrasound is performed with you lying on the table. A small amount of water soluble gel is spread over the area to be examined, to facilitate good contact of the ultrasound probe. This helps to produce the best possible images. The probe is moved over the areas to be investigated. For a transvaginal examination you, or the person performing the examination may request a third person in the room.

A small transducer (probe) is inserted into the vagina. A protective cover (such as a condom) is placed over the transducer and it is then lubricated with sterile gel. The transducer is inserted by the examiner, or you may prefer to insert it yourself as you would a tampon. The sonographer will decide which type of scan is best for your situation, or if appropriate, whether both are required. If you would like further information, please feel free to discuss it with your doctor or one of our sonographers.

## Are there any side effects?

There are no known harmful effects from the use of diagnostic ultrasound.

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**Please Remember to bring your referral and any previous films with you**