

Patient Information Leaflet

Having a Transvaginal Pelvic Ultrasound Scan

Produced By: Diagnostic Imaging

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The following information may be of use to you before you attend your appointment. Please take a few minutes to read through it.

What is a pelvic ultrasound examination?

An ultrasound examination obtains a picture of the inside of the body without the use of x-rays. It is a very safe technique using high frequency sound waves, which are transmitted through a part of the body and reflected by the internal organs and structures. These 'echoes' form a picture on a television screen, which can be analysed.

What is a transvaginal scan?

You will be taken into a slightly darkened examination room and made comfortable on a couch. In order to perform this scan it is necessary to gently insert the tip of an ultrasound probe into the vagina. This is a simple and usually painless procedure. The probe is a little bigger than the size of a finger or a tampon, and produces pictures on a TV screen. You will not be asked to have this test if you have never had a vaginal (internal) examination. The examination can be performed at any time of a woman's life – in pregnancy, during menstruation or after the menopause. If you have any anxiety about the procedure, please discuss this with the staff performing the examination.

During a vaginal scan the probe is close to the pelvic organs, so it is possible to get a clearer view and much greater detail can be obtained. A hand may be placed on the lower abdomen to push the pelvic structures nearer the probe so they can be seen more easily on screen. The time taken to perform the procedure varies from 2 to 10 minutes.

It would be beneficial for you to bathe or shower before you come in for your scan. You do NOT need a full bladder for this scan.

Are there any risks involved?

No, there are no known risks and it is considered to be very safe.

If you are having the ultrasound as an outpatient you will be able to return home immediately, providing that no other tests are required. You may eat, drink and resume normal activities (including sexual intercourse) as soon as you wish. There are catering facilities available in the hospital in the main foyer coffee shop as well as the Full Circle Restaurant that is located on level B. Our staff will be pleased to direct you to any of these facilities once your scan is complete.

Sometimes, the person performing the examination will be able to tell you the results, but in most cases a report will be sent to the doctor who recommended you to have the test.

At your next GP / outpatient appointment, you will be able to discuss the results and any subsequent treatment, which may be necessary

If you cannot keep your appointment for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible. This helps us to arrange another scan for you with the minimum delay and to keep our waiting lists as short as possible. Our telephone number is shown on your appointment letter.

Access to Health Records by Diagnostic Staff

As a patient undergoing tests as part of a diagnostic procedure information about you may be accessed by other healthcare professionals. It is normal practice in these circumstances for your consent to be implied as part of your agreement to have the test or tests performed.

Accidental over exposure of radiation

Despite all safeguards, medical exposures can occur where the actual dose is greater than was intended. The regulations governing these exposures are either IR(ME)R 2000 or IRR 99. In the event of an over exposure the incident will be reported to the Radiation Protection Advisor. It will be down to the discretion of the RPA as to whether there is a clinical requirement to inform any patient of an overexposure.

If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the Quality Team, telephone 01983 534850, who will advise you.

Valuables should not be brought into the hospital. If patients have to bring in valuable items they should ask a nurse to store them safely and request a receipt for the items. You may not be able to have the valuable items returned if the time of discharge from hospital is out of hours.

We are sorry but the Trust cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to items not given for safe keeping.

You can get further information on all sorts of health issues through NHS interactive available through Sky TV or online at: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>

For Health advice and out of hours GP service please call the NHS 111 service on: 111

We Value Your Views On Our Service

If you wish to comment on the care which you, your relative or friend has received, we will be pleased to hear from you. Please speak to the person in charge of the ward, clinic or service in the first instance or ask them to contact the Quality Team. If you wish to contact them directly, telephone on 534850.

Alternatively you may prefer to write to:

Chief Executive
Isle Of Wight NHS Trust
St Mary's Hospital
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5TG

You can also share any concerns you have about our services with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 03000 61 61 61 or at enquires@cqc.org.uk

All NHS sites are no smoking areas.

If you would like help and advice to stop smoking please call: Freephone 0800 169 0 169 to talk to the NHS Smoking Helpline.

Ref: DI/TVUS/2