



**Exam Duration:** 30-60 Minutes

**IV Required?** No

**Exam Preparation:** Patients should drink at least 32 ounces of water 1 hour prior to the exam and finish drinking 30 minutes prior to the exam if possible  
Patients should NOT empty their bladder for at least 1 hour prior to the exam (bladder should be full)  
Medications may be taken prior to the exam with a small sip of water

**How it Works:** Ultrasound utilizes high frequency sound waves which are beyond our range of hearing. These sound waves are emitted from a transducer (camera) which is placed on your skin. The sound waves travel into your body where they are reflected and travel back to the transducer. After the sound waves travel back to the transducer they are converted into an image of the soft tissue structure being examined. These images provide valuable information about a variety of diseases and conditions.

Pelvic ultrasound allows visualization of the vagina, cervix, uterus, ovaries, and surrounding tissues. It is used to determine the size, shape, and location of each of these organs. Doppler ultrasound may be used to determine blood flow to various tissues as well.

**Exam Procedure:** Upon your arrival, a sonographer will explain the exam in detail and ask questions about your relevant medical history. You will be asked to lie on an exam table and lower your clothing so that your lower abdominal and pelvic area is uncovered. A small amount of gel will be placed on your skin—this gel helps to conduct sound waves into your body and is vital to the exam. The transducer will then be moved into various positions to ensure optimal visualization of the pelvic organs. There are no lasting side effects to be concerned about, though some patients may experience mild discomfort due to urinary bladder distention.

Images will be viewed and interpreted by a radiologist. A copy of the report will be sent to your physician.