



Your Appointment

Date

Time

Special Instructions

Fees

At the time of making your appointment, our staff will advise you of any approximate fees payable on the day of your examination.

Most diagnostic imaging procedures are eligible for a Medicare Rebate.

Please ensure you bring the following to your appointment:

- Medicare Card
- Healthcare Card
- Pension Card
- Previous films or scans relating to this procedure

Central

The Avenue Radiology and MRI 9916 1200
 Bridge Road Imaging 9242 4888

Northern

Brunswick Diagnostic Imaging 9383 6266
 Epping Diagnostic Imaging 9408 2222
 Glenroy Diagnostic Imaging 9300 1000
 Healthcare Imaging Bundoora 8467 0800
 Northern Hospital Radiology 8405 9600

Eastern

Blackburn South Radiology 9878 6255
 Glen Waverley Medical Imaging 9802 2055
 Healthcare Imaging Knox 9210 7100
 Healthcare Imaging Ringwood 8804 4030
 Healthcare Imaging Kew 9817 1331

South Eastern

South Eastern Radiology 9562 3433

Regional

Colac Radiology 5232 5162
 Wimmera Radiology 5381 9236
 Warrnambool Radiology 5563 1504

For further information please go to our website:
www.healthcareimaging.com.au

Pelvic Ultrasound for Women



a guide for patients



Healthcare Imaging Services

What is Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is the use of sound waves to obtain images of organs and tissues in the body. Sound waves are emitted into the body by an ultrasound transducer or sensor. The sound reflects off the internal organs and tissues and creates “echoes” which are converted into images that are analysed by a medical specialist.

Why is Ultrasound performed?

Ultrasound examinations can help determine the cause of pelvic pain, abnormal bleeding or other menstrual problems. Ultrasound images can also help to identify and assess cysts, endometriosis and fibroids as well as ovarian and uterine cancers.

How is the Scan performed?

To undergo an ultrasound examination, you will be asked to lie on your back on an examination table. A clinical technologist called a ‘sonographer’ will perform the ultrasound.

There are two methods of performing gynaecological ultrasound: abdominal and vaginal (transvaginal).

During an **abdominal ultrasound** the sonographer will first put some clear gel on your lower abdomen to help the ultrasound sensor move around easily on your skin to improve the image quality. The sensor, which looks like a microphone will be placed against your skin in the gel.



On most occasions, a **transvaginal ultrasound** is the best way to obtain clear images. For example it can be helpful in evaluating the uterus or measuring a cyst or ovary.

During a transvaginal ultrasound, the sonographer will use a sensor which is shaped to easily fit inside the vagina. The sensor is covered with a disposable latex (or vinyl) sheath, lubricated with gel and then inserted into the vagina.

When the sensor is in place a picture will appear on the screen. The sonographer will move the sensor on your abdomen or in your vagina to obtain different views of your pelvic organs and tissues.

Often both an abdominal and a transvaginal scan are performed to ensure that the best possible images are obtained.

Your sonographer will advise you whether one or a combination of methods is best in your particular case. You may decline the transvaginal of scan if you wish.

Both abdominal and transvaginal scans should not be painful, although some mild pressure and discomfort may be experienced. A transvaginal ultrasound is usually no more uncomfortable than a pap smear.

A sonographer is not authorised to provide diagnostic results to patients during examination.

How do I prepare for the Ultrasound?

Some urine in the bladder is helpful for an abdominal pelvic scan and you may be required to drink 4 large glasses of water 1 to 1.5 hours before your appointment time. A full bladder helps the visualisation of the uterus, ovaries and bladder wall.

We will try not to keep you waiting long with a full bladder, however, if you are too uncomfortable while you are waiting, please advise the reception staff. Transvaginal scans are performed with an empty bladder.

You may be asked if you would like a chaperone for the transvaginal ultrasound or the sonographer may wish to have a chaperone in the room.

Please bring another adult to accompany small children as we are unable to supervise them during your visit.

How long does a Scan take?

The average time for an ultrasound is 15–30 minutes.

Who interprets the results and how do I obtain them?

A radiologist (a doctor specialising in ultrasound and other diagnostic imaging techniques), analyses the images obtained and issues a medical diagnostic report of the ultrasound to your referring doctor – usually within 24 hours.

If there are any urgent findings, a radiologist will notify your referring doctor immediately by telephone.

You should contact your referring doctor for your results.

