

Pelvic Ultrasound



What is a Pelvic Ultrasound?

Ultrasound imaging or sonography uses sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Ultrasound exams do not use radiation. Ultrasound images are captured in real-time so they can show the structure and movement of the body's internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels.

Organs visualized include: Women: uterus, endometrium, ovaries, adnexa, and bladder

Men: seminal vesicles and bladder

CPT Code

76856 Trans-abdominal

76830 Trans-vaginal

** Both studies are typically performed unless otherwise specified.

Indications

Evaluate the ovaries, uterus, cervix, adnexa, and bladder. Pelvic pain, abnormal bleeding, menstrual concerns, fibroids, cysts, ovarian or uterine cancers. In men, a pelvic ultrasound is used to evaluate the bladder and seminal vesicles.

Contraindications

none

How Does Your Patient Prepare?

Your patient should wear a loose fitting two-piece outfit. She should come to our office with a full bladder.

What Happens During the Test?

Our technologist will obtain a thorough medical history. Your patient will be asked to disrobe from the waist down and will be provided a gown or blanket. She is positioned lying face-up on an examination table that can be tilted or moved. A clear gel is applied to her abdomen.

The sonographer (ultrasound technologist) or radiologist then presses the transducer against the skin and sweeps it back and forth over the pelvis. The transducer is a small hand-held device that resembles a microphone, attached to an ultrasound machine by a cord. The ultrasound image is available to the technologist.

For women, after the transabdominal part of the exam is done, your patient will be asked to empty her bladder. She will lie down on the exam table and her feet will be placed in stirrups, similar to a gynecologic exam. The technologist or radiologist will insert the ultrasound camera into her vagina and take several images of the uterus and ovaries.

The exam takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

After the Test

Your patient may resume normal activities.

The Results

The radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within 1 business day.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. Jill Westercamp)

This manual is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Iowa Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders: CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.