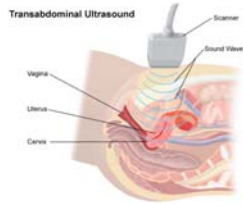


UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER PATIENT EDUCATION

PELVIC AND/OR FETAL ULTRASOUND (Transabdominal)



Your physician has referred you to the Diagnostic Services Department at United Hospital Center for a Pelvic Sonogram. This examination uses sound waves to produce images of body parts. Sonograms are helpful in evaluating pregnancy as well as other pelvic conditions.

For the examination to be successful, the patient is required to drink 32-40 ounces of water one hour prior to the exam so that their bladder is extremely full. Avoid caffeinated or carbonated beverages as these tend to make your bladder feel fuller than it actually is. If for some reason you are unable to or are restricted from drinking, your bladder may be filled by intravenous fluid administration or by introduction of fluid through a Foley catheter (a tube inserted into your bladder). **DO NOT** urinate until after your sonogram is completed, unless otherwise directed by the sonographer. Because the pelvic organs are located behind the bowel and bladder, a full bladder is needed to push the bowel out of the way of the ultrasound waves. In addition, the urine in your bladder conducts the sound waves well, allowing visualization of the deeper pelvic structures.

Upon entering the exam room the sonographer will assist you onto a table where you will lie on your back. If possible wear comfortable clothing that will allow access to your abdomen/pelvic area. If not, you will be asked to wear a hospital gown. Gel will be applied to your skin to prevent air from getting between the ultrasound source and your skin. A small probe, called a transducer, will be passed over the surface of your pelvis. It may be necessary for the sonographer to apply some pressure to your skin with this probe. When the necessary images are filmed and checked, the gel can be wiped off and you will be helped to the bathroom to empty your bladder.

In addition to the exam described, your physician or the radiologist may request an endovaginal or transvaginal ultrasound. A description of this exam is also available for you.

Also, if you are pregnant, we understand the excitement of seeing your baby for the first time. However, this is a serious exam and the sonographer must be allowed to concentrate on performing a thorough exam. Our procedure is to allow one family member in the exam room with you during the exam. No videotapes or pictures of the exam will be allowed. One picture will be given to the patient when the exam is complete.

Please keep in mind that, though the sonographer is well qualified to perform your sonogram, only a physician may interpret it. Therefore, sonographers do not discuss exam results with patients. Any questions regarding the results of your sonogram should be directed to the physician who requested the exam.

LENGTH: Pelvic US approximately 45 minutes/Fetal US approximately 45 minutes

Pelvic and Abdomen Ultrasound

DO NOT schedule back to back

Conflicting preps: Pelvic -- eat & 32 ounces water

Abdomen - NPO 6-8 hrs. prior

If patient needs both for convenience -- Do abdomen first!!

Then send patient out to eat and drink -- return in two hours for pelvic ultrasound.

DISCLAIMER: The content contained in this patient education is presented solely with the intent of providing public service information on health and health-related issues. This information is neither intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Always consult your physician or other qualified health provider prior to utilizing any of the information presented in this patient education. UHC makes no warranty, representation or guaranty as to the content, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the information presented in this patient education or that the information may be relied upon for any reason.

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