



Location: The Imaging Center
8 Quakerbridge Plaza Drive
Mercerville, NJ 08619
(609) 890-0033

Pelvic and Fetal Ultrasounds (First Trimester Only)

What is Ultrasound?

Pelvic ultrasound is a procedure in which high-frequency sound waves create images of the pelvic organs. The sound waves are projected into the pelvis, and measure how they reflect—or echo—back from the different tissues. There is no radiation used in ultrasound, so it is safe even for pregnant women.

Purpose

Ultrasound is a preferred method of examining the pelvis, and functions as an extension of a **physical examination**, particularly for obese patients. It is a common initial step after physical examination when a patient complains of pelvic pain or abnormal vaginal bleeding. The procedure is performed routinely during pregnancy and examinations to determine the cause of infertility. Ultrasound has the ability to detect the size and shape of pelvic organs, such as the bladder, and is useful in evaluating the cause of bladder dysfunction. In women, pelvic ultrasound is used to examine the uterus, ovaries, cervix, and vagina. In general, ultrasound can detect inflammation, free fluid, cysts (abnormal fluid-filled spaces), and tumors in the pelvic region.

A primary use of pelvic ultrasound is during pregnancy. In early pregnancy (about five to seven weeks), ultrasound may determine the size of the fetus to confirm the suspected due date, detect multiple fetuses, or confirm that the fetus is alive (viable). Ultrasound is particularly useful in distinguishing between intrauterine (within the uterus) and ectopic (outside the uterus) pregnancies.

Preparing for an Ultrasound

1. For Pregnancy/Fetal Growth or Pelvic Ultrasounds: Drink 32 ounces of clear liquid one and a half hours prior to your exam and avoid urinating for about one hour prior to exam time. When the bladder is full, it forms a convenient path, called an acoustic window, for the ultrasonic waves.
2. Do not use the bathroom until after the test.

3. A full bladder is not necessary for an endovaginal examination, sometimes making it a preferred choice in emergency situations. Women usually empty their bladders completely before an endovaginal exam.
4. Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing.
5. Please remember to bring:
 - Your prescription
 - Your insurance card
 - Your referral (if needed)

What to Expect During the Exam

1. To begin your procedure the technologist will position you on an examination table.
2. A clear gel (which helps "connect" the ultrasound transducer to the skin) is applied to the area to be examined.
3. The technologist then brings the transducer into contact with the skin and sweeps it back and forth to image the area of interest.
4. You are simply required to relax and stay calm during the examination.

What to Expect After the Exam

There are no after effects from an ultrasound, and you may resume normal activity immediately.

About your Results

One of our board-certified radiologists will read the images, typically within 24 hours. Within 48 hours, a report will be sent to the ordering physician, as well as any other physician you may have requested. If you need to pick up your results, you may contact our medical records departments at ext. 6231 or by email at Medicalrecords@qbradiology.com.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any further questions.