

## What is Pelvic Ultrasound Imaging?

Ultrasound imaging, also called ultrasound scanning or [sonography](#), involves exposing part of the body to high-frequency sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Ultrasound exams do not use [ionizing radiation](#) (as used in [x-rays](#)). Because ultrasound images are captured in real-time, they can show the structure and movement of the body's internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels.

Ultrasound imaging is a noninvasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions.

A pelvic ultrasound provides pictures of the structures and organs in the lower abdomen or pelvis.

There are three types of pelvic ultrasound:

- abdominal ([transabdominal](#))
- vaginal ([transvaginal](#), [endovaginal](#)) for women
- rectal ([transrectal](#)) for men

A Doppler ultrasound exam may be part of a pelvic ultrasound examination.

[Doppler ultrasound](#) is a special ultrasound technique that evaluates blood velocity as it flows through a blood vessel, including the body's major arteries and veins in the abdomen, arms, legs and neck.

## How should I prepare?

You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing for your ultrasound exam. You may need to remove all clothing and jewelry in the area to be examined.

You may be asked to wear a gown during the procedure.

**Pelvic Ultrasound or Pelvic Transvaginal Ultrasound**- you will need to drink 32 ounces of fluid (water, juice, coffee, or tea) **finished** one hour prior. Be sure to not void. A full bladder is needed for the procedure.

**Pelvic/abdominal Ultrasound**- Nothing to eat or drink after midnight except you will need to drink 32 ounces of fluid (water, juice, coffee, or tea) **finished** one hour prior. Be sure to not void. A full bladder is needed for the procedure.

A full bladder helps to visualize the uterus, ovaries, bladder wall and prostate gland for transabdominal ultrasound.