

# **GYNAE ULTRASOUND**

## **What is it?**

This is a method of imaging the genital tract (uterus and ovaries) in women using an ultrasound machine that sends out high frequency sound waves which are reflected from these structures to create a picture.

There are two ways of examining the pelvic structures with ultrasound.

### **1. Transabdominal scan:**

This scan is performed using a probe over the lower part of the abdomen.

### **What preparation is needed for this examination?**

It requires you to have a very full bladder and you will be required to drink up to 2 pints of water 1 hour before the examination to ensure that the bladder is full enough to see all the structures. Some people find it uncomfortable to have a full bladder.

### **Who is this scan suitable for?**

- Young or very elderly people
- virgins
- Those who are menstruating
- Those for who the alternate method is culturally or otherwise unacceptable.
- If there is a latex allergy.

### **2. Transvaginal scan:**

This scan requires you to have an empty bladder. A condom covered probe of the approximate diameter of a Tampax is inserted into the vagina using a lubricant jelly.

### **What exactly happens during the examination?**

You will be asked to lie on a couch - often with

your feet on a stool at the end of the couch, so that full range of scanning can be undertaken. Patient dignity will be protected at all times.

By moving the probe internally, the ovaries and uterus can be seen in greater detail than using a trans-abdominal approach. The examination is usually painless, although occasionally some people find that pressure directly on the ovaries can be uncomfortable.

### **What preparation is needed for this scan?**

No specific preparation is required.

### **How long will it take?**

The examination takes approximately 20 minutes.

### **What Preparation is necessary?**

No specific preparation is required and there are no after effects.

Please inform a member of staff if you have ever experienced a latex allergy.

### **When will I get my results?**

The radiologist (doctor) may discuss the results with you at the end of the examination but will send the full report and films to your referring doctor within 48 hours.

# HCA

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