

Gynaecologic Ultrasound



NEWCASTLE ULTRASOUND *for* WOMEN



What is Gynaecology ?

Gynaecology is the study of pelvic disorders of women but does not include those that might occur due to pregnancy.

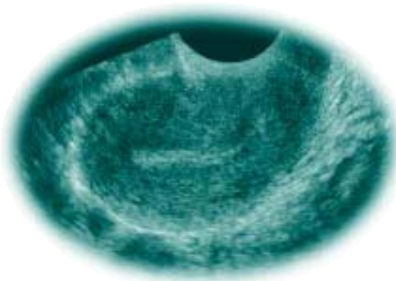
What is ultrasound ?

Ultrasound is the use of high frequency sound waves to create an image of soft tissues.

Why is ultrasound done ?

There are many reasons, some of the more common include:

- Pelvic pain
- Unusual vaginal bleeding
- Problems with fertility



Normal Uterus

How is an ultrasound examination done ?

An ultrasound examination is usually carried out using both an abdominal and a vaginal approach.

- **Transabdominal:** An ultrasound transducer is placed on the lower abdomen, its movement lubricated with some gel. Usually the uterus and ovaries are visible. Pelvic masses, which may extend further up inside the abdomen, can also be seen.

- **Transvaginal:** With an empty bladder, a small ultrasound transducer, covered by a disposable protective sheath, is gently inserted into the vagina. This can be done either by the sonographer or the patient. The transvaginal transducer allows improved visualisation of both the ovaries and the uterus because the transducer can be placed closer to them.



Fibroid within the uterine cavity

Is a full bladder needed ?

Only when having an abdominal scan. If the bladder is full it moves bowel from the pelvis to the abdomen and allows an improved view of the pelvis. It is helpful to have some fluid in the bladder, but it does not need to be so full as to be uncomfortable.

Is transvaginal scanning always done ?

No. Each patient has the option of whether to have transvaginal ultrasound for better visualisation of the pelvic organs.

Can everything be seen on ultrasound ?

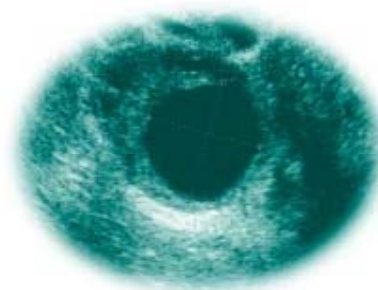
No. As with any imaging technique, ultrasound has limitations. Sometimes instillation of fluid into the uterine cavity ('sonohysterogram') improves visualisation of the endometrium (lining of the uterus) and can identify polyps. Ovaries are sometimes difficult to see due to overlying bowel.

Ultrasound has uses in many areas of gynaecology to assess the pelvic organs. Sound is easily transmitted through water. For this reason a full bladder can help with visualization of the pelvic organs when looking through the abdominal wall. Often a more accurate image can be obtained by placing the ultrasound transducer into the vagina - an empty bladder is better for this type of examination.

A transducer in the vagina will also give closer proximity to the pelvic organs and give clearer and more detailed images.

Reasons why a gynaecological scan may be requested include:

- Abnormal bleeding
- Abdominal pain
- To Assess a lump that has been found
- Exclude ovarian cancer
- Infertility
- Sonohysterography
- HyCoSy



Normal ovary with developing follicle (egg)

At Newcastle Ultrasound for Women all ultrasound examinations are performed by qualified and experienced female sonographers.

All seven doctors who will be analysing and reporting on your scan are gynaecologists who have specialised in ultrasound, fetal-maternal Medicine or Infertility. The ultrasound machines used are state of the art equipment that have entirely digital imaging, storage and printing.



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