

# Pelvic Ultrasound

## What is a Pelvic Ultrasound?

An ultrasound makes pictures of the inside of the body using soundwaves, NOT radiation.

A pelvic ultrasound evaluates the organs in the pelvis (lower abdomen). The test is painless with no known side effects.

## Why is this exam performed?

A pelvic ultrasound allows your child's physician to gather detailed information that they cannot learn from a physical examination. It gives them an inside look at potential problems inside the pelvis, or lower abdomen. Common reasons to do this test is to evaluate:

- Lower Abdomen/Pelvic Pain
- Possible cysts or tumors
- Urinary problems
- Evaluate the uterus and ovaries in girls

## What to expect

Parents, even pregnant women, may be with their children during the test. It may be helpful to make plans for other siblings.

Preparing your child is key to the success of this study. To help prepare your child, our Child Life Specialists will help ease your child's fear and anxiety. Please let a staff member know if you are interested in a Child Life consultation at no additional cost.

Talk with your child before the exam. Children tend to be less anxious if they know what is going to happen and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Feel free to bring items from home that are comforting to your child. This could be a blanket, a stuffed animal, a toy, a game, or a book. Feel free to bring juice or a snack for after the exam. If your baby is bottle fed, please bring a bottle.

During the hour leading up to the test (only 30 minutes for children under 2 years of age), encourage your child to drink a lot of liquids at a slow, steady pace. Milk, juice, or water are the best liquids to drink. Please try to avoid carbonated beverages. Older children need to drink more than younger children. Use the following guidelines:

Child's age	How much to drink
Under 2 years	1 cup (8 oz)
2-3 years	2 cups (16 oz)
4-11 years	3 cups (24 oz)
Over 11 years	4 ½ cups (36 oz)

Please encourage your child not to urinate. A full bladder is needed to see the organs clearly. If your child does urinate prior to the exam, pictures will begin after the bladder is full again. It takes liquids 15-30 minutes to reach the bladder after drinking.

Your child and the accompanying adult will be taken to the procedure room by a technologist and may be asked to change into a gown. The room will be dimly lit. Each room contains a bed, the ultrasound machine, and a television. The technologist will ask why the study is being done and explain it to your child.

**For this 20-30 minute exam:**

- You child will be asked to lie down on his or her back on the table.
- The technologist performing the exam will sit in a chair close to the bed. A warm gel will be applied to your child's abdomen. A transducer, which is like a camera, will be placed over the area where pictures need to be taken. The technologist will move the transducer around to several spots, taking pictures, and sometimes holding it still. Your child may be asked to roll on his or her side or stomach for some pictures.
- It is important for your child to lay as still as possible. Ask the technologist what your child can and cannot touch. Please encourage your child to ask questions.
- The Radiologist will review the pictures before you leave to make sure that no additional pictures are needed.
- For exam preparation and imaging, you should plan to be in the department for 60-90 minutes.
- You will be given discharge instructions at the conclusion of your appointment.

**Receiving your Pelvic Ultrasound results**

Call your doctor for a follow up appointment as instructed. You can also call the doctor who ordered the study for the results 24 to 48 hours after the test. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call Radiology Nursing at 832-826-5371.

If you would like a CD of your child's study, please call the film library at 832-822-1202. The Radiologist's report will also be included on the CD.