



## The Perth Radiological Clinic Difference

- > a network of conveniently located community and hospital based locations
- > caring, helpful and professional staff
- > state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment
- > over 60 specialist radiologists, trained to provide you with accurate and reliable results
- > world class digital networking between clinics provides the benefits of second opinions from specialist radiologists, no matter which clinic you attend.

You can now request an appointment online via our website and our staff will call you back to confirm your appointment, please visit our website:

[www.perthradclinic.com.au](http://www.perthradclinic.com.au)

An appointment has been made for you

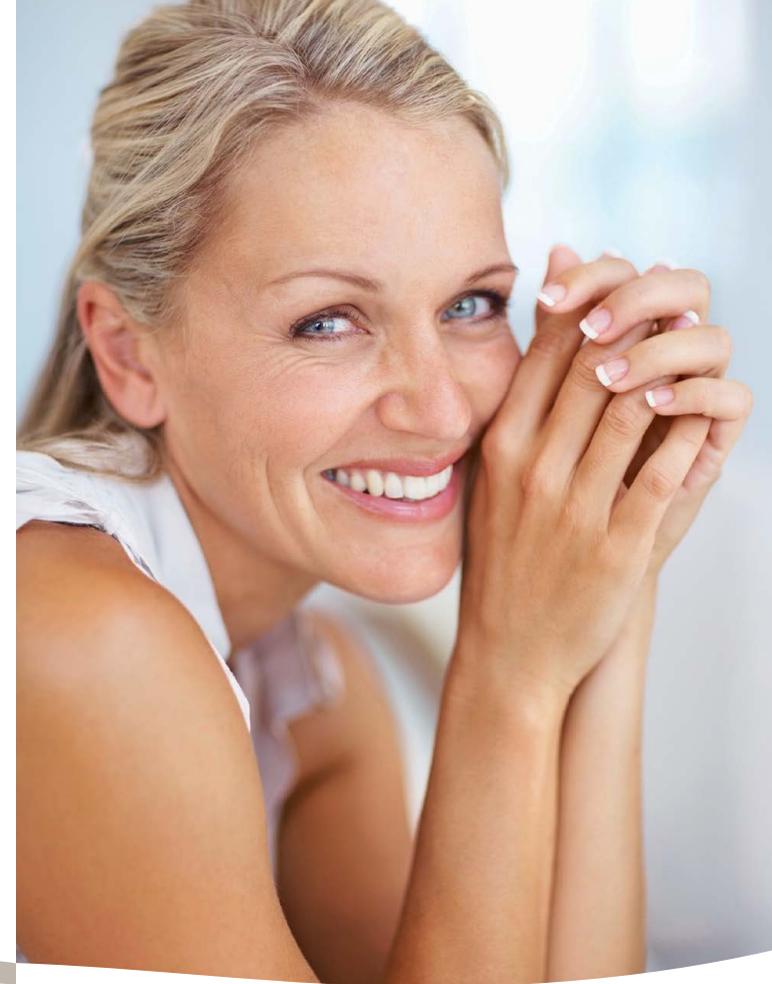
Clinic \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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A GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

## ULTRASOUND Female Pelvic

For information regarding your appointment,  
please see the back of this leaflet.

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# What is an ultrasound examination?

Ultrasound is a safe and widely used imaging technique. Ultrasound produces detailed pictures of the body in real-time using high frequency sound waves which are produced by a special ultrasound probe, called a transducer. The frequency of these sound waves is higher than that detected by the human ear and when they are reflected by a part of the body they are detected by the probe and used to create images that can be displayed on a monitor.

Because they are captured in real time they appear as moving images not as static or still ones, thus enhancing the diagnostic capability of the test. Ultrasound has no known harmful effects and can be used to image a variety of conditions including pregnancy, gallstones and varicose veins. Ultrasound can also be used to measure blood flow through vessels, when it is called a colour flow Doppler or Duplex scan.

An ultrasound of the female pelvis may be performed by examination of the abdomen, called transabdominal, or by using a special probe designed to be inserted into the vagina, called transvaginal. The type of examination you will need will depend on what your referring doctor has requested and the nature of the clinical condition being investigated.

Your examination (scan) will be performed by a sonographer, who is a specially trained technologist. The ultrasound is performed to obtain information that will assist your doctor in managing your health. Because the examiner is interpreting moving images on a screen a high degree of concentration is required to obtain accurate information. Therefore, in most circumstances except obstetric scans, family and friends of the patient are not generally permitted to watch the procedure. If you have accompanying children you will need to bring someone along to supervise them during your examination.

## Procedure

A clear gel is applied to the area to be examined. The ultrasound probe is then placed in contact with the skin and moved over the surface to study the tissues below. When the still pictures are taken you may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds. The scan is completely painless, although pressure may be applied to improve the view in some areas. Please tell the Sonographer should this become uncomfortable. In some female pelvic scans, we may suggest using a transvaginal probe to get a closer view of the pelvic organs. The transvaginal scan is performed with an empty bladder, and as a result many patients find it more comfortable. The small sterilised probe about the same diameter as a thumb, is lubricated with gel before insertion into the vagina. A new protective cover (a condom) is placed over the transducer each time it is



used, so there is no risk of infection. We only offer a transvaginal study if it may be of benefit. If you have an objection to a transvaginal ultrasound being performed please inform the sonographer.

## How long will the examination take and where do the results go?

Most ultrasound scans take 20-40 minutes to complete. Sometimes the radiologist may come to view the screen, however this is quite routine and should not cause alarm. The images are then interpreted by the radiologist and the results will then be forwarded to your referring doctor.

Due to the high demand for these tests, a fee may be charged for appointments that are cancelled within 24 hours of the booking.

Please bring any previous imaging with you on the day of your examination. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us!