Pelvic Ultrasound

DEFINITION
A pelvic ultrasound is an exam using sound waves to see the uterus and/or ovaries.

PREPARATION
In order to provide the best results for your exam, you need to drink approximately 48 oz. of liquids one hour prior to the exam and arrive in the ultrasound department with a full bladder. You may eat as you normally would, it will not interfere with the exam. After you arrive for your exam, the ultrasound technologist may ask you to drink more water if your bladder isn't completely full.

PROCEDURE
You will be asked to remove your clothing from the waist down and put on a hospital gown. The technologist will ask you to lie on your back on a stretcher in the exam room. Warm gel will be applied to your lower abdomen and a ultrasound wand will be moved over the area of interest. The technologist will move the wand across your abdomen to obtain the desired images. You may be asked to empty your bladder and return to the exam room for additional images. For certain gynecological reasons, an additional procedure may be performed called a vaginal scan. This involves inserting an ultrasound probe vaginally to better see the uterus and ovaries. This is not painful, but the patient may experience some pressure.

AFTERWARDS
When the exam is complete, the technologist will instruct you to get dressed. Following the exam you may resume your normal activities.

RESULTS
Once the exam is completed, the radiologist will study the images and dictate a report. After reviewing your films, a written report will be sent to your doctor (the one who ordered your exam). Please allow a few days for your doctor's office to contact you with the results.