**Trans vaginal or trans abdominal Ultrasound**

**What is a Pelvic Ultrasound?**

A pelvic ultrasound is a medical test that is used to assess the female organs (uterus and ovaries). A scan of the lower abdomen (transabdominal) will give an initial assessment, and an internal (transvaginal) scan may also be required to allow better visualisa tion of the organs. The test will be requested by your doctor after your cancer treatment to examine your fertility.

**How do I prepare for a Transvaginal Ultrasound?**

No preparation is necessary. You will be asked to go to the toilet and empty your bladder prior to the test being performed.

If you are wearing a tampon, it will need to be removed. If you are having a period this is not a problem.

You will be asked if you have signed a consent form prior to having this test.

It is a good idea to wear comfortable clothing that gives easy access to the lower part of your body called the abdomen.

**What happens during a Transvaginal Ultrasound?**



Ultrasound probe or often referred to as the hand-held transducer

Monitor

If you do not wish to have a vaginal ultrasound you can request for a transabdominal ultrasound be performed instead. You should inform a member of your treating clinical staff of this as you will need to drink 2-3 glasses of water 30 minutes prior to your test and have a full bladder. A transabdominal ultrasound uses a smooth, hand-held probe called a transducer. The stomach area (called the abdomen) is exposed and warm water based clear gel is applied to the skin and the probe or transducer is moved gently across your abdomen with a sliding and rotating action.

The transducer (or probe), transmits ultrasound waves which are relayed back to produce images or pictures on to an ultrasound screen. The examination is performed in ‘real time’, and the images you see on the screen show the inside of your pelvic area. Pictures are taken during the examination.

**Are there any after effects of a Transvaginal Ultrasound?**

There are no after effects of a Transvaginal Ultrasound. You will be able to resume normal activities.

**How long does a Transvaginal Ultrasound take?**

The examination takes between 15-30 minutes.

Sometimes you will be asked to wait and have the images checked by a doctor called a radiologist. The sonographer (the person conducting the transvaginal or transabdominal ultrasound) may ask the doctor to come into the room and check what has been seen. Usually the doctor will let you know what they have seen and if there are any concerns.

**What are the risks of a Transvaginal Ultrasound?**

There are no known risks of performing Transvaginal or Transabdominal ultrasound. It is a technique which uses sound waves to obtain pictures or images and there is no radiation involved.

**What are the benefits of a Transvaginal Ultrasound?**

The insertion of the transducer into the vagina allows a very close and clear view of the pelvic organs and very clear ultrasound images to be taken of the area. This will help to guide the discussion between you and your cancer doctor about any further investigation or treatment that may be needed.

**Who does the Transvaginal Ultrasound?**

The examination is performed by a sonographer, a health professional specially trained and to perform the test. Sonographers may be male or female, and if you are not comfortable with a male, you should let the reception staff know this prior to having the test. You can request for a partner, a female parent, female relative, to be in the room with you when you are having your ultrasound.

**How do I get my results?**

Your cancer doctor will receive a written report on your test as soon as is practicable so that they can explain what the results mean for you.