

Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

File reference	W21FOI395
Key words	Trans-vaginal Ultrasound
Date of release	18/11/2021
Attachments	No

You asked

1. For what symptoms would a trans-vaginal ultrasound be indicated?
2. Are there any groups of people a trans-vaginal ultrasound would not be carried out on?
 - If so, why would they not be indicated?
3. Does trust policy indicate that it is allowed to carry out trans-vaginal ultrasounds on those who have never been sexually active before?
 - If no, what is defined as sexual activity?

Our reply

The Freedom of Information covers recorded information. The answers to the questions you pose are recorded within this section of our gynaecological ultrasound protocols.

'Policy

Before commencement of the examination, the sonographer should enquire about;

- Previous medical and menstrual history including the stage in the menstrual cycle.
- Patient medication; e.g. tamoxifen, contraceptive pill/device, hormone replacement therapy.
- Reason for current presentation.

Choice of technique should be dictated by the clinical presentation of the patient and the diagnostic information required.

Ideally, both trans-abdominal and trans-vaginal techniques are required for full sonographic assessment of the pelvic organs. An abdominal ultrasound (with or without) a full urinary bladder is essential to gain a global impression of pelvic anatomy, as well as to demonstrate abnormalities which may be out of the range of the vaginal probe. Trans-vaginal ultrasound should be performed to obtain high resolution images of pelvic anatomy.

Trans-vaginal scan alone is acceptable for the ultrasound follow-up of ovarian cysts and assessment of position of intra-uterine contraceptive devices.

Where vaginal examination is not possible or contra-indicated, a full urinary bladder is essential to adequately visualise the pelvic organs.

Patient Consent.

Before trans-vaginal examination is performed, careful explanation by the sonographer is required and verbal consent should be obtained. The sonographer should be familiar with the Royal College of Radiologists guidance on intimate examinations and Trust and Society of Radiographers guidance on obtaining consent for imaging investigations.

The following patient categories should not be **routinely** offered trans-vaginal examination;

- Where the patient is virgo intacta.
- Children below 16 years of age. Between 16 and 18 years of age a judgement must be made about the appropriateness of offering vaginal examination at the time of the examination with special attention paid to obtaining informed consent.
- Patients with learning difficulties or dementia.'

Attachments included: No