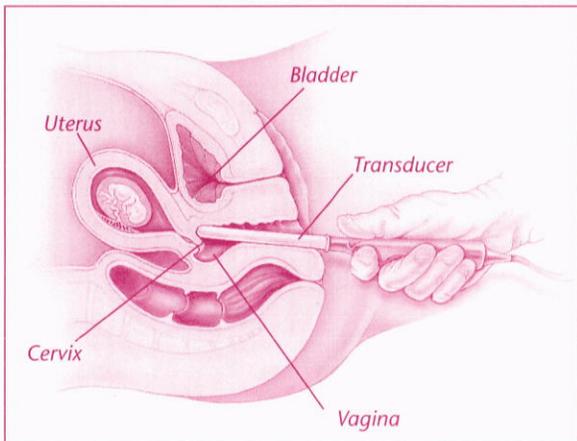


abdomen. This improves contact of the transducer with the skin surface. The transducer is then moved along the abdomen.

When vaginal ultrasound is used, a condom ("rubber") is placed over a transducer before insertion into the vagina. Ultrasound with a vaginal probe is a painless exam that may feel like the exam you have for a Pap test.



Ultrasound is used in obstetrics to examine the growing fetus inside the mother's uterus.



Vaginal ultrasound exam.

### Finally...

Combined with other tests and exams, ultrasound can help your doctor make an accurate diagnosis and determine proper treatment for certain problems. Ultrasound is often advised for women who may have problems during pregnancy. It can enable your doctor to follow any problems more closely, helping to promote your good health and well-being.

### Glossary

**Ectopic Pregnancy:** A pregnancy in which the fertilized egg begins to grow in a place other than inside the uterus, usually in the fallopian tubes.

**In Vitro Fertilization:** A procedure in which an egg is removed from a woman's ovary, fertilized in a dish in a laboratory with the man's sperm, and then placed into the woman's uterus to achieve a pregnancy.

**Mammography:** X-ray of the breasts.

**Ovulation:** The release of an egg from one of the ovaries.

**Real-Time:** A type of ultrasound that uses still pictures to show movement, somewhat like a motion picture.

**Transducer:** A device that emits sound waves and translates the echoes into electrical signals.

**Umbilical Cord:** A cordlike structure that forms normally during pregnancy and connects the baby's bloodstream to the placenta.

This Patient Education Pamphlet was developed under the direction of the Committee on Patient Education of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Designed as an aid to patients, it sets forth current information and opinions on subjects related to women's health. The information in this pamphlet does not dictate an exclusive course of treatment or procedure to be followed and should not be construed as excluding other acceptable methods of practice. Variations taking into account the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to the institution or type of practice may be appropriate.

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# Ultrasound Exams

