



Promoting Excellence In Ultrasound

Policies and Statements

C3

Policy On Vaginal Scanning By Sonographers

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September 1996, Revised September 1999, Revised March 2006, Reaffirmed July 2008

Vaginal (transvaginal, endovaginal) scanning is now an integral part of ultrasound scanning of the female pelvis.

Sonographers performing vaginal scans should be adequately trained in both vaginal scanning techniques and interpretation of the resultant images. Sonographers should perform the examinations only with the approval of the supervising medical practitioner.

Each sonographer should develop a protocol with the supervising medical practitioner (preferably in writing) indicating the circumstances when a vaginal scan may be performed: (please also refer to Policy D8)

1. only if specifically requested by the referring doctor
2. when a vaginal scan is the optimal method to achieve an accurate diagnosis, or
3. any other circumstances as agreed with the supervising medical practitioner.

At the time of the examination the sonographer should:

1. Provide adequate explanation of what is involved. Many women expect the examination to be performed transabdominally - this may need time and explanation
2. Ensure adequate privacy to allow the woman to undress and lie on the examination couch. A sheet should be provided.
3. Use an appropriate transducer. Offer the patient the option of introducing the transducer herself, as she would a tampon.

The presence of a third person in the room during the examination should be encouraged. ASUM supports any effort by a sonographer to have a third party present during a vaginal examination if he/she so desires.

The ASUM Guideline on the Disinfection of Vaginal Scanning Transducers should be adhered to.

ASUM will maintain a constant review of issues related to vaginal scanning.

One should be aware of the sensitive nature of such an examination and the potential for eliciting discomfort during the procedure. If significant discomfort is associated with the examination, assessment of the patient by the supervising medical practitioner is advised.



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