



## Who needs an anal ultrasound?

You may be asked to have an anal ultrasound if the doctor is looking for:

- Defects in the sphincters (muscles in the anal area) from child birth.
- A mass in the anus.
- A fistula (abnormal tunnel extending from the rectum to the vagina).

## What is an anal ultrasound?

An **ultrasound** is a procedure that uses high-energy sound waves to look at tissues and organs inside the body. The sound waves make echoes that form pictures of the tissues and organs on a computer screen (sonogram). Echoes are sound waves that are reflected or bounced off different tissues. Different tissues interact with sound in different ways so normal tissue, abnormal tissue and defects in tissue can all be identified with ultrasounds.

## How is this performed?

1. You will go into an exam room and change into a gown. You will leave the clothes on the top of your body on and remove clothes on the bottom half of your body.
2. You will be positioned on an exam table.
3. A probe is covered with a non-latex covering and lubricated before it is inserted into the anus.
4. The examination usually takes 5-10 minutes, but can be longer. Your doctor will explain the procedure as it is being performed. A nurse or medical assistant will be in the room throughout the procedure to assist you as needed. The procedure should produce no more discomfort than a traditional rectal exam.

## **Where do I go to get this examination?**

A doctor performs this test in the clinic. You will be going to the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital.

## **When will I get my results?**

Your doctor may discuss the results with you immediately after the procedure or they may prefer to compare these results with your other diagnostic tests. If this happens they will schedule a return visit to discuss the results. If you were referred by another provider, the doctor will share results with that provider to determine next steps in your care.

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