

Ref. No: 361071121
From: Public
Date: 07/11/21
Subject: dissertation project on clinical indications for trans-vaginal ultrasound

REQUEST

I am writing this Freedom of Information request as a medical student from the Barts and London carrying out a dissertation project on clinical indications for trans-vaginal ultrasound.

For this dissertation, I am carrying out a health policy analysis on clinical policy and practice regarding trans-vaginal ultrasounds within the NHS trusts in the UK and would like some information regarding your trusts policies. This information will be included in my dissertation, which may in the future be developed for publishing.

I would be grateful for the following information from your trust:

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?

RESPONSE

1. Transvaginal ultrasound is indicated for the following reasons:
 - a. Investigation of suspected ectopic pregnancy.
 - b. Suspected polycystic ovaries.
 - c. Investigation of postmenopausal bleeding.
 - d. Assessment of myometrial thickness prior to endometrial ablation.
 - e. Assessment of pelvic structures if the structures are sub-optimally visualised transabdominally, in particular the retroverted/retroflexed uterus.

- f. Assessment of placental site in cases of suspected placenta praevia.
- g. Assessment of cervical length in cases of cervical incompetency.
- h. Assessment of suspected retained products of conception.

2. Contraindications:

- a. Virgo Intacta.
- b. Minors.
- c. Patient refusal.
- d. Presence of pessary (although these can be removed by gynaecology prior to the examination and replaced afterwards).

3. No. Transvaginal ultrasound is not performed on patients that have never been sexually active. The patient is asked if she has ever had sexual intercourse. If the answer is "no" the transvaginal scan is not performed.