

Imaging Tests

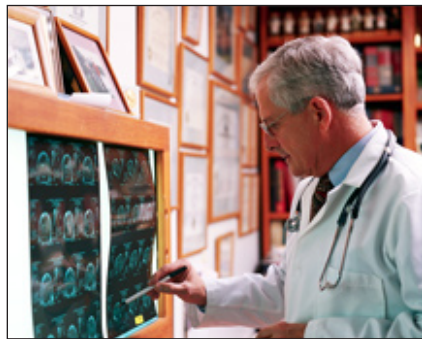
Imaging tests that take pictures of the inside of your abdomen, pelvis, or vagina can help to find the reasons, other than endometriosis, for your symptoms and possibly identify cysts associated with endometriosis.

Both vaginal and abdominal ultrasounds use sound waves to provide a video image of your reproductive organs." Ultrasound imaging won't definitively tell your doctor whether you have endometriosis, but it is a useful tool for identifying cysts associated with endometriosis (endometriomas)."¹

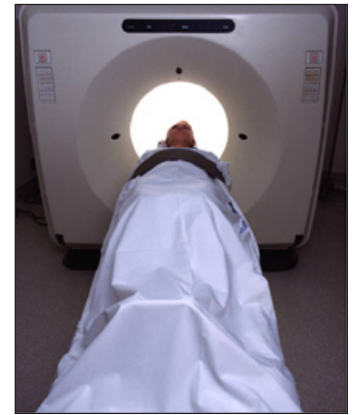
Vaginal Ultrasound. "During a vaginal ultrasound, a wand-shaped scanner (transducer) is inserted into your vagina."¹

Abdominal Ultrasound. "In an ultrasound of the pelvis via the abdomen, a small scanner is moved across your abdomen."¹

MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). In this procedure, a machine uses magnets and radio waves to make a picture.² "For an MRI test, the area of the body being studied is placed inside a special machine that has a strong magnet. In some cases, a dye (contrast material) may be used during the MRI to show pictures of organs or structures more clearly."³



CT Scan (computed tomography scan). A CT scan uses x-rays to make detailed pictures of structures inside of the body. "During the test, you will lie on a table that is hooked to the CT scanner, which is a large doughnut-shaped machine. The CT scanner sends x-ray pulses through the body. Each pulse lasts less than a second and takes a picture of a thin slice of the organ or area being studied."⁴



Sources:

1. Mayo Clinic (2010). Endometriosis [online]. Retrieved December 1, 2010. From <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/endometriosis/DS00289>.
2. National Institutes of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Development (2010). Endometriosis [online]. Retrieved December 1, 2010. From <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/endometriosis/>.
3. WebMD.com (2010). Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) [online]. Retrieved December 16, 2010. From <http://www.webmd.com/hw-popup/magnetic-resonance-imaging-mri>.
4. WebMD.com (2010). CT or CAT scan [online]. Retrieved December 16, 2010. From <http://www.webmd.com/hw-popup/ct-or-cat-scan>.