

9/10/09

The following are the preferred protocols of Hot Springs Radiology for diagnostic sonography. They are not all inclusive. Please use your best judgment in situations not addressed here. Any suggestions for new protocols or changes in existing protocols will be enthusiastically considered! The following are some general guidelines pertaining to common examinations.

1. Please measure all pathology in three dimensions. Image all pathology with color flow Doppler.
2. Document all history and findings on the appropriate worksheet. Please fill out all worksheets legibly and completely. These are very helpful and allow the radiologist to concentrate on evaluating pathology.
3. Transvaginal imaging of the pelvis is very important. Even if it seems that the Transabdominal images are adequate. Certain important pathology can be overlooked without endovaginal images such as subchorionic hemorrhage and ectopic pregnancy. Conversely, transabdominal images are necessary as well. They may reveal pathology not seen by the endovaginal portion of the examination.
4. Always obtain color flow Doppler of ovaries and pulsed Doppler if possible. This is essential in evaluating ovarian torsion.
5. If the patient has a positive pregnancy test, endovaginal imaging is a must. Of course, the patient or referring physician can refuse the endovaginal exam. In these instances, please explain the importance of this to both the patient and physician. If still refused, then please document.
6. With non pregnant females, endovaginal imaging is still very important. Certain exceptions apply including non sexually active or pre-pubescent patients. If the patient uses tampons or has had a pelvic examination, endovaginal imaging should be attempted.
7. Any additional exam performed other than the exam requested must be ordered by the referring physician. Not the radiologist. Please do not hesitate to call the referring physician for the correct/additional order if necessary.
8. If an organ has been removed, please image the respective fossa/site of organ.

***These guidelines are not absolute. They represent the ideal patient under ideal circumstances. We realize that there are many patient dependent factors that limit ideal imaging. If unable to obtain certain portions of the examination, then please document the reason.

We do, however, ask that you adhere to these protocols whenever possible. Legible worksheets and proper documentation of all pathology and measurements on the worksheets is extremely important.

These protocols are going to be placed on the Hot Springs Radiology website. They may be intermittently changed or updated. For the most up to date version please go to www.hsrad.com

We greatly appreciate your cooperation. We could not do what we do without excellent sonographers!

Sincerely,

Hot Springs Radiology