Obstetric ultrasound

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET US04

Your appointment:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Location: .....

Please see our website for more clinic details.

Duration of examination

Obstetric ultrasounds can take up to one hour. This may vary according to the reason for the examination.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- Medicare and any
- Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:

bensonradiology.com.au

What is an obstetric ultrasound scan?

Obstetric ultrasound refers to a scan of a pregnant woman to assess the well-being of her pregnancy. Obstetric ultrasound may be used at various stages of the pregnancy to obtain valuable information about the progress of the pregnancy.

Early in the pregnancy

Scans are performed to establish due dates, check for twins and assess whether the pregnancy is progressing normally.

Nuchal Translucency measurement

The Nuchal Translucency measurement is an assessment of the amount of fluid in the skin at the back of the baby's neck.

These scans are performed between 12 weeks to 13 weeks and 6 days. The measurements obtained at the scan are combined with blood test results and maternal age to assess the risk of Down's Syndrome.

Risk assessment using the Fetal Medicine Foundation software can usually be given at the time of the scan if the blood results are available. Ultrasound results (at sites other than Ashford) are forwarded for assessment by an accredited screening laboratory who will forward a separate report to your doctor.

20-week morphology scan

The term 'morphology' refers to 'the structure of the baby' - these important medical scans are used to screen for a wide range of structural abnormalities. The sonographer will carefully review the different parts of your baby.

Later in the pregnancy

Scans are performed to monitor the growth of the baby and assess other parameters that give information about the well-being of the baby.

Who can attend?

You may bring your partner or one observer to this scan. Please do not bring children. This is an important medical examination of your baby, and the sonographer needs to be able to concentrate during the procedure. Photographs for you to take home will be provided to you at the end of the examination.

For most women this will be a reassuring examination with their baby appearing normal.

In a very small number of women, a problem may be identified. If this is the case further investigations and counselling may be required.

Despite significant improvements in ultrasound imaging, not all problems can be detected with ultrasound.

What preparation is required?

You will be asked to drink 500ml of water at least one hour before your examination and then not empty your bladder before your scan.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound has been used in medicine since the 1950's. Despite many investigations there have been no confirmed adverse effects attributed to diagnostic ultrasound exposure in this time.

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After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our radiologist or ultrasonologist (specialist medical imaging doctor). This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the imaging and report to your doctor by the next working day. Alternatively your doctor may request that you wait or return later to collect the imaging and report.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our clinics or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.

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