

Obstetric Ultrasound – Morphology Examination

Patient Information

This is an exciting and sometimes stressful time for you and we understand that you may wish to share it with your partner

Our highly trained Sonographers want to provide you with the most accurate information and need to concentrate on the collection of high quality measurements and images.

We request that your partner join you after the medical requirements of the scan are completed, when the Sonographer will have time to show you the baby's appearance.

We understand that you may have many questions about your baby. However, the Sonographer is not a doctor, and therefore may be unable to answer some of these questions. In those cases your doctor will discuss the results with you.

We also request that no recording devices are used in the Ultrasound room without the prior consent of the Sonographer.

What is an Obstetric Ultrasound?

During an ultrasound examination sound waves are used to produce images of the internal structures of the body in the area examined. The internal organs reflect the sound waves and a computer generates the images.

The images are captured and stored on our computer system. A CD can also be produced as a record of the examination.

Why do you need an Obstetric Ultrasound?

Ultrasound examinations are routinely performed between 18 and 20 weeks of pregnancy. Reasons your doctor may request a scan include to establish your due date of delivery, assess the structural development of the baby or to determine the number of babies.

This is essentially your baby's first check-up and a great deal of information can be learned about your baby with no harmful effects.

Prior to the Procedure

1. You will be required to drink 1 litre of water 2 hours before attending the examination. The full bladder is important, as it pushes the uterus up from the pelvis so that the images are clearer. Apart from this requirement you may eat or take medications as usual.
2. Bring your referral and any relevant previous Ultrasound films or reports for comparison.
3. Bring your Medicare Card, Pension/Healthcare Card.

The Procedure

1. A member of staff will explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have.
2. The examination lasts between 30 and 45 minutes.
3. You may be taken to a private room to change into a gown.
4. When you are laying on the examination couch a small amount of water-soluble gel is spread over the area to be examined. This is to enable good contact with the Ultrasound transducer (the small hand held device which produces the sound waves) to produce the best images.
5. The Sonographer will move the transducer over the abdomen to acquire the images needed. This is used to identify and check the appearance of the baby's various structures, including the internal organs and skeleton. Measurements will be done to check the baby's weight and size. During this time multiple images will be stored to record the information required. The Radiologist may be asked to come in to look at the images and discuss them with you.
6. After the procedure, the gel is simply wiped off.
7. If possible, we will provide pictures of your baby to take with you.

Questions

This brochure is provided to help you understand the obstetric ultrasound procedure.

If you have any questions prior to your examination, you can speak with a member of our staff by phoning Patient Services on **132 336**

hunterimaging.com.au

Obstetric Ultrasound – Morphology Examination

Patient Information

Results

A Radiologist (a specialised doctor trained to read x-rays and Ultrasound) will view the images and write a report for your doctor.

Occasionally abnormalities are found which may require further images to be taken. The radiologist would then talk to your doctor about the findings.

If you are required to have a follow-up examination, and you feel at ease with a particular member of staff, please ask at the time of booking the appointment and we will try to accommodate your wishes.

Questions

This brochure is provided to help you understand the obstetric ultrasound procedure.

If you have any questions prior to your examination, you can speak with a member of our staff by phoning Patient Services on **132 336**

hunterimaging.com.au