

An obstetric ultrasound is a safe and accurate investigation of your unborn baby. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to obtain images.

Preparation

In order to obtain clear images, you will be asked to present with a full bladder.

The best way to ensure that you are not delayed by an under-filled bladder is to stay well-hydrated (drink plenty of fluids) for a day or two prior to your appointment. Then follow the specific instructions given by the booking specialist.

Different people will process the extra fluid in different times. If you find you are very uncomfortable (can't walk or sit down, belly distended), this is too much fluid in your bladder and you should release some. Speak to one of our staff if you are not sure.

Attendance

The time required for an obstetric examination is variable depending upon factors such as the stage of pregnancy and the baby's position and movements.

It is important that you are punctual for your appointment to ensure there is sufficient time available to perform the procedure.

The Procedure

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce images of your baby. It has gained wide acceptance because it produces no discomfort and has no known side effects.

Scanning is performed by a sonographer. A sonologist (a specialist doctor) makes a report of the procedure for your doctor. The sonographer may show the images to the sonologist before you leave the premises and occasionally the sonologist will participate in the scanning procedure.

The ultrasound is a "real-time" procedure with the images changing as the baby moves. We understand that you may want to share your ultrasound experience with your partner or significant others. However, the sonographer requires considerable concentration to thoroughly examine your baby and obtain all necessary images.

Therefore:

- » You might be asked to limit the number of people accompanying you during the examination. If there are others who you wish to share the experience, they can come in to see the baby when the diagnostic imaging is completed.
- » We are happy to have your children in the room, but for younger ones consider who will look after them during your scan and that you and your partner may be distracted from seeing the images.
- » Please switch off mobile phones.

Images

You will be given instructions on how to access your images online.

Limitations

An ultrasound detects many but not all abnormalities and this procedure cannot guarantee a normal baby.

Due to the foetal position, gestational age, maternal body shape or normal variations, some features may not be clear at the time of the procedure. In this case, a later scan or another test might be recommended.

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Why have an ultrasound?

Your doctor has requested that you have an ultrasound as a non-invasive investigation to assist in monitoring your pregnancy. This examination may provide valuable information about your pregnancy that will assist the doctor in ensuring a successful outcome for you and your baby.

There are many reasons a doctor may request an ultrasound. Some of these are:

Early in pregnancy:

- » To determine the number of babies.
- » To determine the gestational age (your due date).
- » To check the pregnancy when there is pain or bleeding.
- » To obtain a risk assessment for Down's syndrome (at 11-14 weeks).

Middle part of pregnancy

- » To check the baby's size.
- » To assess the baby's development and check for abnormalities.

Late in pregnancy:

- » To assess the baby's growth.
- » To assess foetal well-being.



Appointment

Please phone or SMS our friendly booking service on **1300 788 508** or request an appointment online www.canberraimaging.com.au

What to bring

Please bring the following items with you to your appointment:
→ Your referral
→ Any relevant films
→ Medicare card
→ Pension / Health Care card

Your results

Your doctor will receive fast and convenient electronic access to your reports and images. Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your results with you.