

Examinations Available

General Ultrasound

Abdomen, Renal, Breast, Thyroid,
Testes

Obstetric & Gynaecological

First, Second & Third Trimester,
First Trimester Screening, (NT
Down Syndrome Screening), Pelvic

Musculoskeletal

Shoulder, Groin, Hip, Ankle etc
(cortisone injections)

Vascular

Deep Vein Thrombosis, Arterial
Studies, Renovascular, Carotid
Duplex, Abdominal Aorta

Echocardiography

Adult & Paediatric

Appointment Times

8.30 am—5.00 pm
Monday to Friday

Appointments can be made during
office hours which are:

9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Monday to Friday

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**Second Trimester
(18-20 wks)**

**Obstetric Ultrasound
Patient Information**

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Fetal Medicine Foundation—NT accredited
HDAA Accredited Practice

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Ultrasound Examination

Ultrasound examinations are usually performed around 18-20 weeks of pregnancy as this is considered the best time to examine foetal development.

What Is Ultrasound?

An ultrasound image is produced by the reflection of sound waves. Sound waves are sent into the body via a transducer, (probe) which is a small hand-held device placed on the relevant body part by the sonographer.

A moving black and white image appears on the ultrasound screen, (similar to a television screen) allowing the sonographer to examine different body parts.

Is Ultrasound Safe?

There are no known harmful effects associated with the medical use of sonography. Widespread clinical use of diagnostic ultrasound for many years has not revealed any harmful effects.

Studies in humans have revealed no direct link between the use of diagnostic ultrasound and any adverse outcome. Although the remote possibility exists that biological effects may be identified in the future, current information indicates that the benefits to patients far outweigh the risks.

Preparation

There is no preparation required for this particular ultrasound.

Procedure

During the scanning procedure, a layer of gel is applied over the abdomen and a transducer is placed on your skin. The transducer will be moved back and forth over the abdomen and images of the babies structures will appear on a monitor.

There are many structures that need careful examining during the scan. Measurements of the baby's head, abdomen and limbs are taken to check its size. The doctor will then look at the major structures in the baby including the brain, heart, spine, kidneys and bladder.

The sex of the baby is advised if there is good visualisation and it is requested by both parents.

The ultrasound examination requires a great deal of concentration by the sonographer, however he will try to explain the baby's features whilst taking the relevant pictures.

You are most welcome to bring your partner or other family member to the pregnancy scan. However, we do not recommend more than two people or small children come to the ultrasound examination as this can make it difficult for the doctor to focus on the important task of examining your baby.

A CD containing your babies images will be issued to you following the ultrasound. We are also able to text an image of your baby to your mobile phone.

After the examination, the gel is simply

wiped from your skin.

Examination & Reporting time

Ultrasound examinations usually take approximately 20 minutes, and after the procedure the results will be reported in 5 - 10 minutes.

We strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your ultrasound report with you.

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