

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

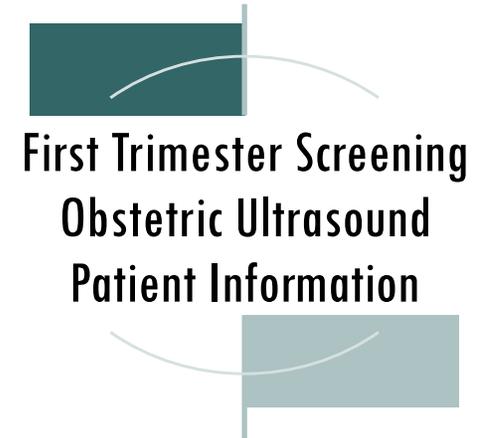
Appointments can be made during
office hours which are:

9.00 am to 5.00 pm
Monday to Friday

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HDAA Accredited Practice

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Ultrasound Examination

This test is performed during an ultrasound examination between 11 and 13 wks 6 days of pregnancy. It is a measurement of a small fold of skin at the back of the baby's neck (nuchal translucency). It detects approximately 80 % of Down's Syndrome.

When this measurement is used in conjunction with some blood tests (free beta hCG and PAPP-A), the sensitivity is increased to 90%.

The blood tests can be performed between 10 and 13 wks 6 days of pregnancy. Ideally they should be done 1 week prior to the ultrasound. Maternal weight should be recorded on the pathology request form.

Should I have this test performed?

This is a question each parent must answer for themselves.

The main reason for performing screening tests such as this is to detect abnormalities. This allows consideration of further testing or possible termination of pregnancy if an abnormality is found.

Patients most likely to benefit from this test are women 35 years and over (as older women have a higher risk of chromosomal abnormalities), women who have had an abnormal pregnancy previously and women with a family history of abnormal pregnancies/Down's syndrome.

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.

Preparation

There is no preparation required for this particular ultrasound examination.

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 baby's structures will appear on a monitor. In a small percentage of patients a trans-vaginal ultrasound may be necessary.

After the examination, the gel is simply wiped from your skin.

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.

Is there a medicare rebate?

You will be eligible for a Medicare rebate if there are medical indications which warrant a scan in the first trimester, for

example, uncertain dates, advanced maternal age (35+), or viability.

These indications must be clearly stated on your request form. If there are no indications for the scan, other than for Nuchal Translucency you will not be eligible for a Medicare rebate.

Examination & Reporting time

Ultrasound examinations usually take approximately 20 minutes.

The gestational age as shown by ultrasound and several maternal characteristics including maternal height, weight, smoking status, racial origin, parity and method of conception will be combined with your blood tests. This combined risk will be shown on your ultrasound report to your referring doctor.

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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