

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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Ultrasound Examination

Not all pregnant women need to have an ultrasound in the third trimester.

Your doctor may request an ultrasound for many reasons including: Assessment of the baby's size, well-being and growth. To review the placenta; if there is pain or bleeding; if a fetal abnormality was noted on an earlier ultrasound or if the clinician is uncertain about the position of the fetal head.

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 benefits to patients far outweigh any hypothetical 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.

Sometimes a transvaginal ultrasound is also helpful. This will be discussed with you and your consent obtained. You will have a choice whether you wish to proceed with a transvaginal ultrasound.

A third trimester ultrasound will usually include the following components, however some ultrasounds may focus more on particular areas.

Baby's head, abdomen and femur length; the size of the baby (the estimated fetal weight); the amount of amniotic fluid around your baby; the blood flow in the umbilical cord; the baby's heart rate and rhythm; the position of the baby & placenta and the length of the cervix.

3D/4D

Many parents enjoy the bonding experienced when they see their baby on 3D/4D. It is important to make sure that your baby is healthy and growing well, for this reason we will endeavour to obtain a 3D/4D image as a bonus after the baby has been fully assessed using 2D ultrasound.

28-34 weeks is the ideal time for 3D/4D.

Please be aware many factors including adequate amniotic fluid in front of the structure being imaged and baby's co-operation need to be considered.

Some babies press against the wall of the uterus or placenta, or they may have their arms or hands lying in front of the face and therefore on some occasions 3D/4D images may not be possible. It is good for parents to anticipate seeing their growing baby but not to be too disappointed if 3D/4D images prove difficult or the images of the baby's face are impossible to get.

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

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 20-30 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.