



INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ULTRASOUND EXAM

Our goal is to combine technology with compassion. We want a partnership educating you at the time of your ultrasound. We will take some “photographs” and briefly record a DVD at the time of the examination. We will provide you with one complimentary DVD at your first ultrasound appointment.

Our perinatologists are experts in obstetrical ultrasound; we perform the highest-level ultrasounds available. Your doctor or midwife may have sent you here for a “level two”, “high resolution”, or “targeted” ultrasound. This means we will be using state-of-the-art equipment to examine all of the organs of the baby(ies) and some of the internal organs of the mother. We will also assess the size and health of the baby, where the placenta is and how it is working, and how much fluid is around the baby.

Ultrasound has been used for over 25 years and there is no evidence that it will harm you or your baby. Sound waves (far outside the range that humans can hear) are sent out from the ultrasound probe. These waves bounce off your uterus and baby and make echoes. A computer translates these echoes into pictures.

All of our ultrasounds are performed by a certified sonographer and/or one of our doctors. Please ask questions during your ultrasound. We will share all available information about your baby with you before you leave our clinic.

We will tell you if we feel your ultrasound is not as clear as possible, or if we want you to come back for another ultrasound to see parts of the baby more clearly. Even under the best of circumstances, with the most experienced of doctors, *not all birth defects will be seen during an ultrasound*. For example, most cases of spina bifida (an opening in the spine) can be diagnosed before a baby is born, but about a third of heart defects will not be found until after birth. Ultrasound is not good at detecting functional problems such as mental retardation. A baby’s brain may look normal by ultrasound but still not function normally.

We ask you to help us with your ultrasound. Two or three family members or friends are welcome to join you. However, we prefer that you not bring children. *If you have to bring children, please bring another adult to supervise and to take them back to the waiting room.* This is a special visit. Education is an important part of your visit and we want you to be able to concentrate on what the doctor is saying. *Also, please turn off your cell phone* or set it to “vibrate” before your ultrasound begins. Please empty your bladder prior to routine ultrasound exams if you are more than 14 weeks. **If your ultrasound is prior to 14 weeks please do not empty your bladder.**

Please **sign below** to acknowledge that you have read and understand the information on this page and that you give your consent to the examination.

Patient Signature

Date