

Your appointment:

Date:

Time:

Location:

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Please see our website or the back of this form for more branch details.

Duration of Examination:

Obstetric ultrasounds can take up to one hour. This may vary according to the reason for the examination.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- All previous relevant imaging
- Medicare and any Healthcare cards

Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:
www.bensonradiology.com.au

Obstetric Ultrasound

Patient Information Sheet No. US 4

What is an Obstetric Ultrasound Scan?

Obstetric ultrasound refers to a scan of a pregnant woman to assess the well-being of her pregnancy. Obstetric ultrasound may be used at various stages of the pregnancy to obtain valuable information about the progress of the pregnancy.

Early in the pregnancy

Scans are performed to establish due dates, check for twins and assess whether the pregnancy is progressing normally.

Nuchal Translucency Scans

These scans are performed between 11 and 14 weeks and the results are combined with a blood test to assess the risk of chromosomal abnormality (especially Down's syndrome). The Nuchal Translucency Assessment refers to measurements of skin thickness at the back of the baby's neck. The factors that influence the final risk result are the mother's age, the nuchal translucency thickness and the blood test. Therefore no risk assessment can be given at the time of the scan. The ultrasound scan results are forwarded for assessment by an accredited screening laboratory who will forward a separate report to your doctor.

18-20 Week Morphology Scan

The term 'morphology' refers to 'the structure of the baby'. These important medical scans are used to screen for a large range of structural abnormalities. The sonographer will carefully review the different parts of your baby. While detection rates for abnormalities have improved significantly over the last few decades, not all problems can be detected with ultrasound. You may bring your partner and one or two other observers to this scan but please remember that it is an important medical examination of your baby. A short video/DVD can be performed at the end of this scan if you request it.

Late in the Pregnancy

Scans are performed to monitor the growth of the baby and assess other parameters that give information about the well-being of the baby.

What preparation is required?

You will be asked to drink ½ litre (500 mls) of water at least one hour before your examination and then not empty your bladder before your scan.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound scans utilise high-frequency sound waves (mechanical vibrations) when producing images. No ionizing radiation is used. Ultrasound has been used in medicine since the 1950's and there have been no confirmed adverse effects attributed to diagnostic ultrasound exposure in this time. Benefits of the scan findings far outweigh any undiscovered risk.

After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our radiologist (specialist medical imaging doctor). This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the imaging and report to your doctor by the next working day. Alternatively your doctor may request that you wait or return later to collect the imaging and report.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our branches or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.