

Procedure Information: Obstetrical Ultrasound

What is an Obstetrical Ultrasound?

An ultrasound is a procedure using sound waves to image pelvic organs and the fetus. Ultrasound procedures are painless, risk free with no side effects.

When is an Obstetrical Ultrasound ordered?

- Evaluate gestational age of fetus in the first trimester.
- Evaluate fetal growth and anatomy (organs) in the second and third trimester.
- Evaluate reason for bleeding or pain.
- Determine Fetus number (twins) and viability (heart tone)
- In first trimester we are looking for the gestational sac
- Evaluate mother's uterus and ovaries and if in the second trimester we can visualize the fetuses organs

Patient Preparation

Patients less than 14 weeks please have a full bladder. We suggest you drink up to 8 cups of water one hour before your scheduled time. If bladder is not full the ultrasound tech may delay your scan until your bladder is appropriately full

Length of Procedure

Total time in the department, includes registration and imaging is approximately 30 minutes

What Happens During an Obstetrical Ultrasound?

A registered ultrasound technologist will first verify your identity and explain the procedure. You will be escorted into the imaging room and asked to remove your clothing from the waist down and change into a hospital gown. The technologist will position you on your back and will apply a gel to your abdomen. The gel is water based and will not irritate your skin or stain your clothing. The technologist will then place the transducer on your skin and adjust its position to image. Frequently patients will ask questions about the scan and please note we are limited by the scope of our training to answer some questions. After the procedure is complete a board certified radiologist will interpret your scan. The results will be sent to your physician.