



SOUND
DIAGNOSTIC
RADIOLOGY

Proudly
South Australian
Owned!



Sound Diagnostic Radiology
257 Fullarton Road
PARKSIDE SA

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You will be required to
pay for your appointment
on the day.

For more information about
Sound Diagnostic Radiology
please visit our website:
sounddiagnostics.com.au

Ultrasound Obstetric - 1st Trimester Patient Information

Ultrasound in the 1st Trimester

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to generate images of your pregnancy and surrounding pelvic structures. Ultrasound does not use radiation or xrays to produce these images and it has no known medical side effects at the frequencies used.

Scanning your baby gives you an exciting early glimpse of your baby, but it also provides important medical information relating to your baby's growth, development and helps determine how your pregnancy is progressing.

Obstetric ultrasounds are performed in the 1st trimester for a variety of reasons, including confirmation of the pregnancy and the number of babies, assessment of bleeding, determining the gestational age and well being.

Preparation

You will be required to 1 litre of water prior to your examination. This allows the bladder to fill and helps to visualize the uterus, baby and other structures of the pelvis. Hence, do not go to the toilet once you have commenced drinking the water. If you feel as though you may struggle to hold onto the water, you can come to Sound Diagnostics 1 hour prior to your scan to drink the water here.

What to expect

Our ultrasound rooms are dimly lit to reduce the amount of 'glare' on our ultrasound monitors. Your partner is welcome to come into the room with you, but as this is a medical diagnostic ultrasound, we do like to limit the number of people who come into the room. If you wish to have more people present, please ask our booking staff when you ring to make your appointment.

You may be asked to change into a patient gown so that we can easily access your abdomen and asked to lie on our ultrasound bed. A warm gel is applied to you which enables us to send the sound waves through the skin to form the image.

We can usually start seeing the first signs of pregnancy by 5 weeks gestation, a babies heart doesn't start beating until after 6 weeks gestation. Scans at this early stage are performed to check the viability of your pregnancy, to confirm how far along you are, make sure that there is only one baby (not twins or triplets!) and that the pregnancy isn't ectopic (outside the uterus). Measurements of the pregnancy sac, the fetal pole (the first signs of baby), your ovaries and kidneys are documented. If we are unable to see a heartbeat and the measurements are under 7 weeks size then you will be asked to return for another scan in a week or so to make sure that the heart begins to beat.

When a pregnancy is less than 8 weeks, it is very common to have a transvaginal (internal) ultrasound. This is to accurately measure and assess the pregnancy. If this is required, then your Sonographer will discuss this with you at the time of the scan. A transvaginal scan does not adversely affect your pregnancy.

What to bring

You must always bring your request form from your doctor. Please note that we accept all radiology request forms. If you have any previous ultrasounds at home that may be relevant to your examination, please bring these with you, they can sometimes help to give a more accurate assessment of your pregnancy. Always bring your Medicare card and any other concession cards.

Who does my ultrasound?

A university trained Sonographer performs your ultrasound scan. They are highly trained professionals that know how to achieve the best quality images to assess your area of concern. A Radiologist (a doctor who is a specialist at interpreting the images) looks at all the ultrasound images taken with your medical history to produce a diagnostic report.

When will I get the report?

Your report will be delivered to your referring practitioner and will be there by lunch on the following business day. If you require your results any earlier, please advise our reception staff and we will ensure they are ready for you.