



# Ultrasound Obstetric - 2nd Trimester Patient Information

## Ultrasound in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Ultrasounds in the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester usually occur between 18 – 20 weeks and this scan is called a Morphology Scan. A morphology scan is performed to assess your baby for abnormalities and anomalies. Not all variances can be detected by ultrasound.

## 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 your belly which enables us to send the sound waves through the skin to form the image.

This is a detailed assessment of your baby. This is where we look through your baby from top to toe to make sure that everything that can be seen with ultrasound is present and accounted for, eg. That there are 2 kidneys, counting fingers or that there is 4 chambers in the heart.

We exclude abnormalities at this scan and take measurements of your baby to confirm your dates and baby's growth.

Although ultrasound has progressed significantly over the years and we do have the latest in ultrasound technology here, not all anatomical variances can be detected antenatally.

Gender predictions are not always possible or accurate using ultrasound, however, if you wish to know the gender of your child, please ask your Sonographer to take a peek.

## 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 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.

**Proudly  
South Australian  
Owned!**



Sound Diagnostic Radiology  
257 Fullarton Road  
PARKSIDE SA

**08 8357 8855**

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](http://sounddiagnostics.com.au)