

Patient Exam Prep Information

Obstetrics Ultrasound

What is to expect with an Obstetrics Ultrasound?

During an ultrasound, you lie down on an examination table or bed. An ultrasound technician applies a special gel to your abdomen and pelvic area. The gel is water-based, so it should not leave marks on your clothes or skin. The gel helps the sound waves travel properly. Next, the technician places a small wand, called a transducer, onto your belly. They move the transducer to capture black and white images onto the ultrasound screen. The technician may also take measurements of the image on the screen. They may ask you to move or hold your breath while they capture images. The technician then checks to see if the necessary images were captured and if they are clear. Then, the technician wipes off the gel and you can empty your bladder.

First Trimester Ultrasound?

In the first trimester of pregnancy (weeks 1 to 12), ultrasounds may be done to: confirm pregnancy, check the fetal heartbeat, determine the gestational age of the baby, and estimate a due date, check for multiple pregnancies, examine the placenta, uterus, ovaries, and cervix.

Second and Third Trimester Ultrasound?

In the second trimester (12 to 24 weeks) and the third trimester (24 to 40 weeks or birth), an ultrasound may be done to: monitor the fetus' growth and position, determine the baby's sex, confirm multiple pregnancies, look at the placenta, check for congenital abnormalities or birth defects, monitor the levels of amniotic fluid, diagnose problems with the ovaries or uterus, such as pregnancy tumors, measure the length of the cervix and more.

How to prepare for the Obstetrics Ultrasound?

Drink 32 ounces (or four 8-ounce glasses) of water one hour before your examination time. You can use the bathroom after the exam is completed.

For a video describing an obstetrics ultrasound visit <https://youtu.be/b9Ug23XOvoc> or describing what is an ultrasound, visit <https://youtu.be/5emUmWgfplO>

