

# OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND

*An obstetric ultrasound is a safe and accurate investigation of your unborn baby. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to obtain images.*



Ortonville Area Health Services

## Preparation

In order to obtain clear images, you will be asked to present with a full bladder.

The best way to ensure that you are not delayed by an under-filled bladder is to stay well-hydrated (drink plenty of fluids) for a day or two prior to your appointment.

Different people will process the extra fluid in different times. If you find you are very uncomfortable (can't walk or sit down, belly distended), this is too much fluid in your bladder and you should release some.

## Attendance

The time required for an obstetric examination is variable depending upon factors such as the stage of pregnancy and the baby's position and movements.

It is important that you are punctual for your appointment to ensure there is sufficient time available to perform the procedure. Please arrive 15 minutes early to register

## The Procedure

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce images of your baby. It has gained wide acceptance because it produces no discomfort and has no known side effects.

The ultrasound is a "real-time" procedure with the images changing as the baby moves. We understand that you may want to share your ultrasound experience with your partner or significant others. However, the procedure requires considerable concentration to thoroughly examine your baby and obtain all necessary images.

## Therefore:

- We ask to limit the number of people who accompany you during the exam to you and your partner. If there are others who you wish to share the experience, they can come in to see the baby when the diagnostic imaging is completed.
- We ask that no children younger than 12 years of age accompany you and your partner.
- Please switch off mobile devices

## Limitations

An ultrasound detects many but not all abnormalities and this procedure cannot guarantee a normal baby.

Due to the fetal position, gestational age, maternal body shape or normal variations, some features may not be clear at the time of the procedure. In this case, a later scan or another test might be recommended.

## Why have an ultrasound?

Your doctor has requested that you have an ultrasound as a non-invasive investigation to assist in monitoring your pregnancy. This examination may provide valuable information about your pregnancy that will assist the doctor in ensuring a successful outcome for you and your baby.

## There are many reasons a doctor may request an ultrasound. Some of these are:

### Early in pregnancy:

- » To determine the number of babies.
- » To determine the gestational age (your due date).
- » To check the pregnancy when there is pain or bleeding.
- » To obtain a risk assessment for Down's syndrome (at 11-14 weeks).

### Middle part of pregnancy

- » To check the baby's size.
- » To assess the baby's development and check for abnormalities.

### Late in pregnancy:

- » To assess the baby's growth.
- » To assess fetal well-being.

Appointment

Please phone Centralized Scheduling at **320-839-4274** for scheduling questions.

What to Bring

Please arrive 15 min. early to register and bring the following items with you to your appointment:

- Your medications
- Insurance Cards
- Co-pays due
- Adult to Supervise Young Children