

For instance, cerebral palsy cannot be identified and the detection for heart abnormalities is low.

Consequently, when there are clinical or laboratory suspicions for a possible abnormality, a pregnant woman may have to undergo nonradiologic testing such as amniocentesis (the evaluation of fluid taken from the sac surrounding the foetus) or chorionic villus sampling (evaluation of placental tissue) to determine the health of the foetus, or she may be referred by her doctor to an obstetrician specializing in high-risk pregnancies.

A CD will be made of your 20 week ultrasound containing all the images.

We do not allow video taping of the ultrasound examination and we ask that you do not take pictures on your mobile phone.

THIRD TRIMESTER ULTRASOUNDS

Your doctor may recommend an ultrasound later in your pregnancy for a variety of reasons.

Examples include:

- assessment of the baby's growth
- assessment of the baby's position in the uterus
- Follow-up examination of a previously identified abnormality.
- Placental position.

CONCLUSION

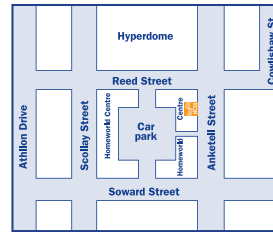
Ultrasound examination in pregnancy is used to assist in diagnosis of a range of potential problems for both mother and baby during pregnancy. The techniques and equipment used have evolved over time and will continue to improve. Even in the best of hands the technique has limitations and, importantly, women who undergo ultrasound examination need to recognise that not all problems in pregnancy can be detected using ultrasound.

Your doctor will discuss with you the merits of undergoing ultrasound, the purpose of the scan and then the results of the examination.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact our practices.

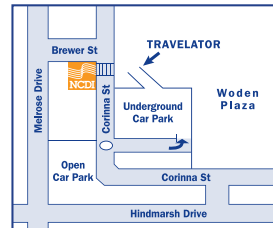


Obstetric Ultrasound is available at all NCDI Practices:



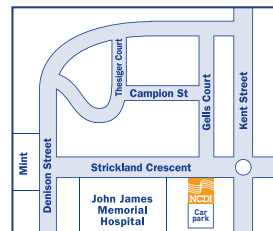
TUGGERANONG

Suite 10a, Homeworld Centre
Anketell Street,
Tuggeranong ACT 2900
Ph: 6293 2922



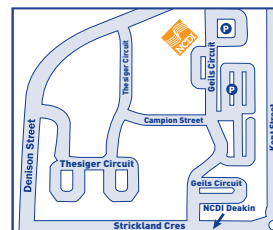
CORINNA CHAMBERS

36-38 Corinna St,
Woden ACT 2606
Ph: 6214 2222



CANBERRA SPECIALIST CENTRE

161 Strickland Crescent,
Deakin ACT 2600
Ph: 6124 1900



GEILS COURT

39 Geils Court,
Deakin ACT 2600
Ph: 6122 7878

Please bring your referral and any previous x-rays with you on the day of your examination.

OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND



Obstetric Ultrasound is the use of ultrasound scans in pregnancy

WHAT IS AN OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND?

Ultrasound imaging is based on the same principles involved in the sonar used by bats, ships and fishermen. When a sound wave strikes an object, it bounces back, or echoes. By measuring these echo waves it is possible to determine how far away the object is and its size, shape, and consistency (whether the object is solid, filled with fluid or both).



18 - 20 week obstetric ultrasound image

During the scan, images are acquired using soundwaves that carry no risk to yourself or your unborn child.

In the majority of cases images are obtained externally. A layer of gel is spread over your stomach before a probe is moved over the area to obtain the required images.

Sometimes, we may also require an internal scan to obtain the best possible images. This involves placing a small probe into your vagina and is not harmful to the pregnancy.

An ultrasound examination is a specialist medical examination undertaken by a sonographer working under the direct supervision of medical specialists. Ultrasound has been performed in pregnancy for approximately 40 years and is regarded as a safe technique.

An obstetric ultrasound examination demands quite intense concentration by the sonographer and/or the medical specialist performing the examination.

For this reason we prefer the examination to be performed without small children present. You may wish to bring one or two family members with you while the examination is performed.

A Doppler ultrasound study may be part of an obstetric ultrasound examination. Doppler ultrasound is a special ultrasound technique that evaluates blood velocity as it flows through a blood vessel, including the body's major arteries and veins in the abdomen, arms, legs and neck.

During an obstetric ultrasound the examiner may evaluate blood flow in the umbilical cord or may in some cases assess blood flow in the foetus or placenta.

WHY IS THE ULTRASOUND PERFORMED?

There are a variety of reasons why your doctor may recommend you have an ultrasound during your pregnancy.

- Check the baby is alive.
- Estimate the age of the pregnancy.
- Diagnose congenital abnormalities of the foetus.
- Evaluate the position of the baby.
- Evaluate the position of the placenta.
- Determine if there are multiple pregnancies.
- Determine the amount of amniotic fluid around the baby.
- Check for opening or shortening of the cervix or mouth of the womb.
- Assess the baby's growth.
- Assess the baby's well-being.

FIRST TRIMESTER ULTRASOUND

In early pregnancy urine and blood tests are used to confirm the pregnancy as ultrasound cannot detect a pregnancy before 5 weeks since your last period started. In the first trimester of pregnancy (weeks 1 – 14) ultrasound is commonly performed to identify the cause of unexpected bleeding, to determine the estimated date of delivery or assist in diagnosis of tubal pregnancy.

NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY RISK ASSESSMENT (see Nuchal Translucency information pamphlet).

This ultrasound examination assists in the diagnosis of Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21) and some other chromosomal problems. In this test a particular measurement is made of the skin thickness on the back of the foetal neck and this is correlated with other information such as family history and blood tests. This ultrasound does not directly identify Down Syndrome or other chromosomal problems, but provides a risk assessment. Depending upon the outcome of the examination your doctor may recommend further investigation for Down Syndrome or other chromosomal abnormalities. The examination will also review the foetus for the presence of possible major anatomical abnormalities.



18 – 20 WEEK ULTRASOUND FOR FOETAL ABNORMALITY

Your doctor may recommend that you undergo ultrasound at 18 – 20 weeks to assist in identifying any anatomical abnormality of the foetus. At this stage of your pregnancy ultrasound can demonstrate many features of the growing infant's anatomy and for this reason many foetal abnormalities can be detected.

Obstetric ultrasound cannot identify all foetal abnormalities.