



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON ULTRASOUND EXAMINATION

What is ultrasound?

Ultrasound uses the same principle as sonar. Sound waves from the ultrasound probe bounce off of the uterus, placenta, and baby, making echoes which a computer converts into detailed images. In essence, an ultrasound exam is a series of pictures of the baby and organs in the mother's pelvis.

Is ultrasound safe?

There has been extensive evaluation of the safety of diagnostic ultrasound. There is no documented evidence that diagnostic ultrasound causes harm to either the mother or the baby when ordinary diagnostic power and frequency is used. Ultrasound exams performed in our office use the lowest power level that can reasonably achieve meaningful image.

Does a normal ultrasound prove that my baby will have no abnormalities?

Ultrasound examination can detect many abnormalities, but some abnormalities are not detectable by ultrasound. The exam provides information about the size and shape of the baby's organs but does not give complete information about the function of the baby's organs or tell us that the baby is completely "healthy". Abnormalities of the brain function such as mental retardation cannot be detected by ultrasound. Additionally, there are many conditions that evolve over time, appearing normal at the time of the ultrasound exam but become apparent later in the pregnancy.

You should realize that even with a complete ultrasound exam, we may be unable to find existing fetal abnormalities or abnormalities that can appear later in the pregnancy or after birth. Thus, although ultrasound examination is a very helpful diagnostic tool, it should not be considered absolute proof that the baby is normal.

Can ultrasound determine if there are chromosomal abnormalities?

It is important to realize that an ultrasound exam cannot tell for certain whether the baby's chromosome count is normal or abnormal. A normal ultrasound exam does not guarantee a normal chromosome count. Your doctor can talk with you regarding additional testing options.

For other questions, please do not hesitate to ask your doctor. You are requested to sign this document before your ultrasound examination to acknowledge that you have read and understood the information provided and have had the opportunity to ask questions.

Patient or Guardian Signature

Date

Printed Name