MID NORTH IMAGING

OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

What is an obstetric ultrasound scan?

An obstetric ultrasound refers to a scan of a pregnant woman to assess the well-being of her pregnancy. Obstetric ultrasounds may be used at various stages of the pregnancy to obtain valuable information about the health and well-being of the pregnancy.

Early Pregnancy

Scans are performed to establish due dates, check for twins and assess whether the pregnancy is progressing normally. Early pregnancy assessment is usually performed from 6 weeks gestation.

Nuchal Translucency

The Nuchal Translucency measurement is an assessment of the amount of fluid in the skin at the back of the baby's neck. These scans are performed between 11 weeks and 4 days and 13 weeks and 6 days. The measurements obtained at the scan are combined with blood test results and maternal age to assess the risk of genetic disorders including Down's Syndrome. Ultrasound results are forwarded for assessment by an accredited screening laboratory who will forward a separate report to your doctor.

Morphology – 20 weeks

The term 'morphology' refers to 'the structure of the baby' - these important medical scans are used to screen for a wide range of structural abnormalities. The sonographer will carefully assess your baby. For most women this will be a reassuring examination with their baby appearing normal. In a very small number of women, a problem may be identified. If this is the case, further investigations and counselling may be required. Despite significant improvements in ultrasound imaging, not all problems can be detected with ultrasound.

Late Pregnancy

Scans are performed to monitor the growth of the baby and assess other possible complications. These scans provide information about the well-being of the pregnancy. Late pregnancy scans are performed from 24 weeks gestation.

What preparation is required?

You will be asked to drink 500ml of water at least one hour before your examination and then not empty your bladder before your scan. No preparation is required for late pregnancy scans.

Duration of the examination

Musculoskeletal ultrasound examinations are normally 15 to 30 mins in duration. This may vary according to the reason for the examination.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound scans use high frequency sound waves when producing images. Ultrasound has been used in medicine since the 1950's and there have been no confirmed adverse effects attributed to diagnostic ultrasound exposure in this time. No ionizing radiation is used in ultrasound.

Who can attend?

You may bring your partner or support person to observe this scan. Please remember diagnostic obstetric ultrasounds are important medical examinations of your baby, and the sonographer needs to be able to concentrate during your appointment. For this reason, we kindly ask that children do not attend. Digital images of your baby will be sent directly to your mobile phone immediately after your appointment.

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After the examination

The images will be reviewed and reported by our Radiologist. For your convenience we can generally deliver the imaging and report to your doctor by the next working day. Urgent cases are reported immediately after the scan and results sent to your doctor.

Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- All previous relevant imaging
- Medicare and any healthcare or concession cards

For more information on this examination please contact our clinic on (08) 7634 6677 or email admin@midnorthimaging.com.au