



**Queensland
Government**

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY

NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED

A copy of this form should be given to the patient/substitute decision-maker to read carefully and allow time to ask any questions about the procedure. The patient information sheet should be included in the patient's medical record.



1. What is an obstetric ultrasound and how will it help me/the patient?

Obstetric ultrasound is a procedure that uses ultrasound (soundwaves) to take pictures of your baby from within your uterus (womb).

Ultrasound does not use radiation.

Ultrasound is useful to check:

- for pregnancy, including a multiple pregnancy
- the age of your unborn child
- for some abnormalities in your pregnancy.

Ultrasound does not exclude chromosomal

abnormalities and not all abnormalities can be seen on ultrasound images. Ultrasound image quality may be limited by maternal weight, fetal position and presence of scar tissue

- the position of your baby and the placenta
- your cervix
- the amniotic fluid around your baby
- your baby's growth and well-being.

An obstetric ultrasound is a painless procedure, no anaesthetic is required.

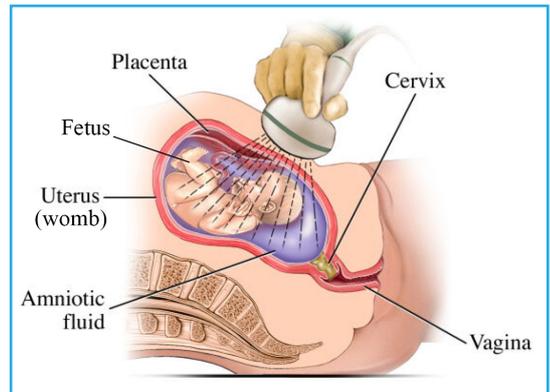


Image 1: Ultrasound (adapted).

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Preparation for the procedure

The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your scan, this may include:

- having a full bladder
- wearing a loose fitting, two-piece outfit because only your lower abdomen needs to be bare for the procedure.

During the procedure

The lights in the room will be dimmed so that the pictures can be seen more clearly.

Ultrasound gel will be put onto your abdomen. The gel allows the probe to slide easily over the skin and helps to produce clearer pictures.

Ultrasound pictures are taken.

Once the scan is complete, the gel will be wiped off your skin.

Depending on the procedure the ultrasound could take between 30 and 60 minutes. This time frame depends on the position and movement of your unborn baby.

Sometimes, a transvaginal ultrasound scan is needed to improve the detail of the pictures.

If you are having a transvaginal ultrasound scan the procedure will be explained to you and you will be given patient information. Following this, your written consent will be obtained to do this part of the procedure. A second staff member may be in the room during your transvaginal ultrasound scan.

Transvaginal ultrasound scan is similar to a gynaecological examination. You will be covered with a sheet. A small ultrasound transducer will be inserted into the vagina. The transducer is moved in the vagina and ultrasound images taken.

2. What are the risks?

There are no known risks to you or your baby from having an ultrasound.

The procedure may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

What are the risks of not having an obstetric ultrasound?

There may be consequences if you choose not to have the proposed investigation. Please discuss these with the doctor/clinician.

3. Are there alternatives?

Making the decision to have a procedure requires the patient/substitute decision-maker to understand the options available. Please discuss any alternative treatment options with your doctor/clinician.

4. What should I expect after the procedure?

Your healthcare team will talk to you about what to expect after your procedure and upon discharge from hospital.

5. Who will be performing the procedure?

A doctor/clinician other than the consultant/specialist may assist with/conduct the clinically appropriate investigation. This could be a doctor/clinician undergoing further training, all trainees are supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.

If you have any concerns about which doctor/clinician will be performing the procedure, please discuss with the doctor/clinician.

6. Where can I find support or more information?

Hospital care: before, during and after is available on the Queensland Health website www.qld.gov.au/health/services/hospital-care/before-after where you can read about your healthcare rights.

Staff are available to support patients' cultural and spiritual needs. If you would like cultural or spiritual support, please discuss with your doctor/clinician.

Queensland Health recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients will experience the best clinical care when their culture is included during shared decision-making.

7. Questions

Please ask the doctor/clinician if you do not understand any aspect of this patient information sheet or if you have any questions about your/the patient's medical condition, treatment options and proposed investigation.

8. Contact us

In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).

If it is not an emergency, but you have concerns, contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.