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qemedicalimaging

TQEH MEDICAL IMAGING DEPARTMENT

Government of South Australia
SA Health

# Patient Information Sheet
# Obstetric Ultrasound

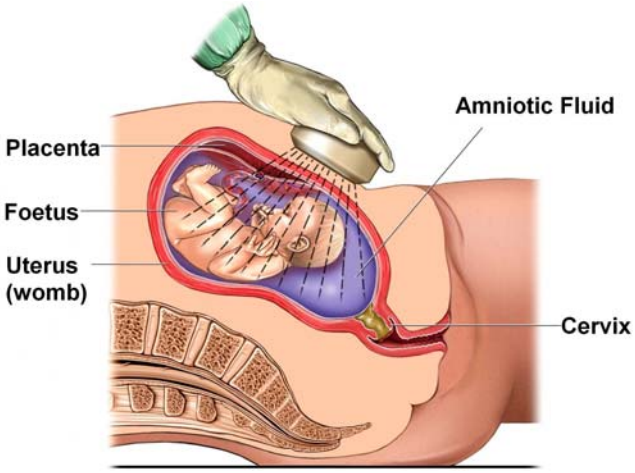
## 1. What is an Obstetric Ultrasound?

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

Ultrasound does not use radiation.

*Ultrasound is useful to check:*

- for pregnancy, including a multiple pregnancy
- the age of your unborn child
- for abnormalities in your pregnancy
- the position of your baby and the placenta
- your cervix
- the amniotic fluid around your baby
- your baby's growth and well-being.

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## 2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?

An Obstetric Ultrasound is a painless procedure, no anaesthetic is required.

## 3. 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.

## 4. 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 may be needed to improve the detail of the pictures.

  If you are having a transvaginal scan the procedure will be explained to you. Following this, your verbal consent will be obtained to do this part of the procedure.

  A second staff member may also be in the room during your transvaginal scan.

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

## 5. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

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.

## Notes to talk to my doctor/ health practitioner about:

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