



INFORMED CONSENT FOR ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY

Your physician has requested that you have an ultrasound examination of your pregnancy. This information sheet will answer several questions about this diagnostic procedure.

WHAT IS ULTRASOUND AND WHAT CAN IT SHOW ABOUT MY PREGNANCY

Ultrasound uses the same principle as sonar. Sound waves from the ultrasound probe (far beyond the range of hearing) bounce off your uterus and your developing baby producing echoes which a computer converts into detailed images.

IS ULTRASOUND SAFE

There has been extensive evaluation of the safety of ultrasound over the course of more than 20 years. There is no evidence that diagnostic ultrasound causes harm to either the mother or the fetus.

TYPES OF EXAMS

1. **A limited sonogram** provides information for specific areas ordered and does not include evaluation for the possible presence of fetal malformations.
2. **A basic or standard sonogram** provides information concerning placenta location, fetal position, twin pregnancies, gestational age, and the possible presence of fetal malformation.
3. **A targeted or detailed sonogram** is a more detailed exam providing not only the information of a basic scan, but in addition, more specific evaluation for fetal growth and/or fetal abnormalities.
4. **A vaginal sonogram** in which a special ultrasound instrument about the thickness of a tampon is inserted into the vagina is occasionally used to provide extremely detailed views of the uterus, ovaries, or portions of the fetus that are low in the pelvis. This may be used to see the heartbeat or the location of a very early pregnancy, or to evaluate the placenta or birth canal. As with other ultrasound exams, the procedure is safe. It is generally less uncomfortable than a pap smear.

DOES A NORMAL ULTRASOUND PROVE THAT MY BABY WILL HAVE NO ABNORMALITIES

A limited sonogram will not be expected to show abnormalities. While a basic sonogram will detect many abnormalities, it is not definitive for fetal malformations. Despite a normal interpretation of the test, some babies may be born with anomalies not identified by the examiner during the study.

You should realize that even with a detailed sonogram, the examiner may still be unable to find fetal abnormalities, which are later discovered after birth. Thus, although ultrasonography is a very helpful diagnostic tool, it should not be considered as absolute proof of the absence of fetal defects.

I have read the above information and understand its content.

Patient Name

Patient Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date