



# Perinatal Ultrasound

There are a variety of ultrasounds obtained in our perinatal clinic that provides the maternal fetal medicine specialist information that is helpful to your pregnancy care. Our team of sonographers are specially trained in perinatal imaging and fetal echocardiography, which provides detailed images of your baby and visual guidance during certain procedures. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to safely produce an image. Different factors influence the ability to obtain good fetal images such as how far along you are in pregnancy, your baby's position and the woman's size (BMI-body mass index).

You may be scheduled for any of the following ultrasound exams:

**Transvaginal ultrasound or TVS:** This is an ultrasound that is done with a probe that is inserted into the vagina to provide the best quality image very early in pregnancy, when looking at the cervix or determining where the edge of the placenta is located if close to the cervix. This scan takes 15-30 minutes.

**Limited ultrasound:** This ultrasound is focused on one particular fetal organ or structure or the amount of amniotic fluid around your baby. This may also be performed when looking for changes in a baby's health due to a specific concern. This scan takes 30 minutes depending on what they are looking at.

**Complete ultrasound:** This ultrasound is done between 10-18 weeks, and attempts to look at all of the major structures within the fetus. Due to the smaller size of the baby, not all measurements or structures may be seen. This scan typically takes 45 minutes for each baby.

**Targeted or detailed ultrasound:** This type of ultrasound is done optimally after 19 weeks gestation. It is a very specific series of detailed images of each body system of your baby, including expanded views for the fetal heart. This scan takes about 60-90 minutes for each baby depending on any identified concerns.

**Fetal echocardiogram:** This ultrasound looks specifically at the fetal heart and all major blood vessels that comes from and to the heart. These "echo" ultrasounds may be performed with a maternal fetal medicine specialist or a pediatric cardiologist who specializes in reading fetal heart ultrasounds. This scan takes about 60-90 minutes for each baby depending on any identified concerns.

**Dopplers:** This is a specific assessment of how well blood is moving through certain vessels in the baby. This is similar to a blood pressure assessment and can take up to 30 minutes to ensure a good reading.

**Biophysical profile:** This is the ultrasound portion of an assessment done to make sure the baby is doing well inside the mother. It specifically looks at fetal movement, tone, fluid volume and breathing movements. This portion of the test can take up to 30 minutes for each baby.