

# Perinatal Ultrasound

Our team of sonographers are specially trained in high risk pregnancy 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. These images provide the maternal fetal medicine specialist information that is helpful to your pregnancy care.

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 ultrasound is done with a probe that is inserted into the vagina to provide the best quality image very early in pregnancy, and is used to look at the cervix or determine where the edge of the placenta is located if it is close to the cervix. This scan takes 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 is being looked at.

**Complete ultrasound (may also be called a Level I ultrasound):** This ultrasound is done between 10-40 weeks to look at all of the major structures within the fetus. The smaller the baby is can impact what measurements or structures may be seen. This scan can also be done to assess growth later in your pregnancy. This scan typically takes 45-60 minutes for each baby and includes about 30 images.

In some cases, a targeted ultrasound may be needed if a complete ultrasound to obtain additional images or look at key fetal structures. See below for more information about targeted ultrasounds.

**Targeted or detailed ultrasound (may also be called a Level II ultrasound):** This ultrasound is done optimally after 19 weeks gestation. It is a very specific series of detailed images of each body system and body part of the baby, including expanded views for the fetal heart. This scan takes about 60-90 minutes and includes about 90 images for each baby depending on any identified concerns.

**Fetal echocardiogram:** This ultrasound looks specifically at the fetal heart and all major blood vessels that come 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. Some fetal cardiac conditions can change over time and may require a follow up fetal echocardiogram by the pediatric cardiologist.

**Dopplers:** This is a specific assessment of how well blood is moving within the baby.

**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, flexion and extension of arms, legs and body, fluid volume and breathing movements. This test can take up to 30 minutes for each baby.