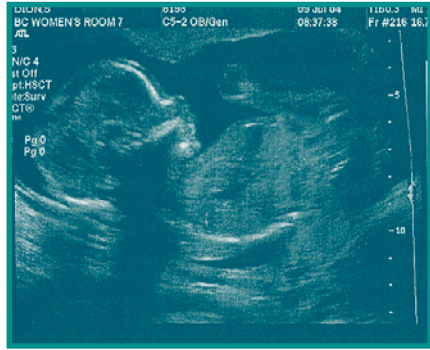


Are there any side effects?

There are no known harmful effects from the use of diagnostic ultrasound.



A typical Obstetric Ultrasound Scan (20 Weeks)

Your Appointment is:

Time: _____

Day: _____

Date: _____

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If you have any other questions,
please do not hesitate to contact
us or your referring doctor

Penrith Imaging Branches
Obstetric Ultrasounds are conducted at the
branches below

16-18 Castlereagh Street,
Penrith 2750
Phone: (02) 4731 6977
Fax: (02) 4721 2756

Suite 4, Ground Floor
68 Derby Street,
Penrith 2750
Phone: (02) 4737 3300
Fax: (02) 4737 3301

Obstetric Ultrasound

Patient
Information

PENRITH IMAGING

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What is an Obstetric Ultrasound?

Ultrasound examinations use sound waves to produce an image which the sonographer and radiologist can interpret. Ultrasound is high frequency sound. It passes into the body from an ultrasound probe and the sound is reflected off the internal organs. The ultrasound machine changes the returning echoes into visible images and displays them on a television screen. Images on the display screen can be recorded on film. An obstetric ultrasound examination may provide valuable information about your pregnancy which helps ensure a successful outcome for you and your baby. Two techniques can be used to give information on your baby, abdominal (transabdominal ultrasound scan) and vaginal (transvaginal ultrasound scan). Transvaginal ultrasound is frequently offered in early pregnancy (less than 12 weeks gestation). There may also be some benefits from using this technique later in pregnancy, although examination method after 12 weeks gestation will usually be performed using the transabdominal method.

When is it used?

An ultrasound examination can more accurately determine the due date for your baby. It can also check the number of babies and confirm your condition if there has been any unexpected bleeding. Ultrasound is used to assess the growth of your baby and its well being. It can show its anatomy and help to check for any possible abnormalities (best done between 18 and 20 weeks unless otherwise recommended).

How do I make an appointment?

These examinations are available at the Penrith Imaging branches shown on the back of this leaflet. Telephone or visit your nearest branch to arrange a convenient appointment.

Do I need to do anything?

If you are having an abdominal scan, you will be required to empty your bladder 2 hours before your appointment time. Then drink 1 litre of water over the first hour. Make sure you have finished the water one hour before your appointment time. **DO NOT EMPTY YOUR BLADDER BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT.** You may eat normally. The bladder is emptied for a transvaginal scan.

Will it take long?

This examination is usually completed within 20-30 minutes.

What happens?

Examinations are performed by a sonographer or doctor trained in the technique of obtaining and interpreting ultrasound images. An abdominal scan is performed with you lying on your back. A small amount of water soluble gel is used to achieve a good contact of the ultrasound probe. The probe is moved over the skin sending and receiving ultrasound pulses which are converted to images. Transvaginal ultrasound scans use a small probe which is inserted into the vagina. A protective cover (such as a condom) is placed over the probe and is then lubricated with sterile gel. The probe (transducer), is inserted by the examiner or you may prefer to insert it yourself as you would a tampon. For a transvaginal examination you or the person performing the examination may request a third person in the room. During the examination every attempt will be made to show you the relevant features on the screen.

Please Remember to bring your referral and any previous films with you