



701 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292
319 398-6011

Ultrasound Pregnancy

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

What is an Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is an easy and noninvasive way to see internal structures of the body. It sends high-frequency sound waves through the skin and produces images of major organs. In an obstetrical examination, the baby can be observed inside the mother's uterus.

Why should I have an Ultrasound exam?

The most common reasons for having an ultrasound exam are to determine the approximate age and position of the baby and to make sure the baby is growing normally.

Age can be determined early in the pregnancy by measuring the length of the baby. Later, age is determined by measurements of the head and femur, the long bone inside the thigh. Measurements of the abdominal and head circumference are also determined.

Ultrasound provides information about the amount of fluid surrounding the baby, the placenta, and the placenta's position.

Early in pregnancy, it may be necessary to scan with a special transducer placed in the vagina to see the baby. An average ultrasound exam takes 20 minutes to an hour depending on the number of weeks of gestation.

Preparation:

Drink 3 to 4 8-ounce glasses of water at least one hour before the exam and do not urinate until the exam is completed. The reason for this is the high frequency sound waves used in ultrasound travel well through liquid but not through gas or air. Since the uterus is located in the pelvis behind loops of bowel containing gas and air, it is important to fill the bladder with fluid to displace the bowel and provide a clear window for viewing the baby.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Parking/Registration:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Ave. SE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to "Radiology (X-Ray)," also located on Ground (G) level.

If you are having this procedure at the Mercy Health Plaza Imaging Center:

The Imaging Center is located in the NE corner of the Plaza next to Galaxy Theatre, at 5264 Council St. NE. Park in front of the building. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to the Reception desk.

Procedure Results (Who interprets the results):

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you. Please allow your physician time to review these results, usually 2 business days after the exam.

Your appointment date and time:

Procedure date: _____

Procedure time: _____ (Please arrive 15 minutes early)