



Exam Duration: 45-60 Minutes **IV Required?** No

Exam Preparation: *First Trimester (14 weeks or less):* Drink 32 ounces of water beginning 1 hour prior to appointment time; finish drinking 30 minutes prior to appointment if possible. Do not urinate prior to exam.

OB Ultrasound (14 weeks or greater): Drink 16-24 ounces of water beginning 1 hour prior to appointment time; finish drinking 30 minutes prior to appointment if possible. Do not urinate prior to exam.

How it Works: Ultrasound utilizes high frequency sound waves which are beyond our range of hearing. These sound waves are emitted from a transducer (camera) which is placed on your skin. The sound waves travel into your body where they are reflected and travel back to the transducer. After the sound waves travel back to the transducer they are converted into an image of the soft tissue structure being examined.

These images provide valuable information about your uterus, your baby and its environment.

Exam Procedure: Upon your arrival, a sonographer will explain the exam in detail and ask questions about your relevant medical history. You will be asked to lie on an exam table and lower your clothing so that your lower abdominal and pelvic area is uncovered. A small amount of gel will be placed on your skin—this gel helps to conduct sound waves into your body and is vital to the exam. The transducer will then be moved into various positions to ensure optimal visualization of the pelvic organs. You may be asked to roll onto one side during the exam. There are no lasting side effects to be concerned about, though some patients may experience mild discomfort due to urinary bladder distention.

During the course of the exam, measurements will be taken to determine the estimated size and age of your baby, as well as the approximate due date. Keepsake images of your baby will be provided.

Images will be viewed and interpreted by a radiologist. A copy of the report will be sent to your physician.