



Obstetrical Ultrasound Informed Consent

Patient Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

A prenatal ultrasound is a test that is performed for medical purposes only. An ultrasound, also called a sonogram, is an imaging test used to create pictures of internal organs and structures. A device called a transducer is placed on your skin or a wand is inserted into the vagina. The device transmits sound waves that create pictures on a monitor.

Ultrasounds may be performed at various times during pregnancy in order to:

- Establish the estimated date of delivery
- Determine the number of fetuses
- Diagnose an ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage
- Examine the uterus and other pelvic anatomy
- Examine the fetal anatomy for presence of abnormalities
- Check the amount of amniotic fluid
- Examine blood flow patterns
- Observe fetal activity
- Examine the placenta
- Measure the length of the cervix
- Monitor fetal growth
- Determine fetal position

Types of Exams

Two types of ultrasounds can be performed during pregnancy:

-Abdominal ultrasound: Gel is placed on the abdomen and the transducer glides over the gel to create the image. You may need to have a full bladder for abdominal ultrasounds in early pregnancy.

-Transvaginal ultrasound: A Smaller transducer is inserted into the vagina to create an image. A transvaginal ultrasound produces a sharper image and is often used in early pregnancy. This is similar to having a pelvic examination and some mild discomfort may be experienced.

Risks

-No adverse fetal effects of an obstetric ultrasound have been demonstrated in humans after decades of clinical use.

-Mild discomfort may be experienced due to pressure from the transducer on the abdomen or in the vagina. No radiation is used during the procedure.

-Transvaginal ultrasound requires covering the ultrasound transducer in a non-latex sheath and does not pose a risk to women with an allergy to latex.

Turn Over

Limitations

- It is possible that fetal birth defects that are present may not be seen or may be falsely reported during an obstetrical ultrasound examination.
- Ultrasound's ability to detect fetal abnormalities may be limited by gestational age, fetal position, and by the mother's weight.
- Neither a normal ultrasound exam nor the result of any other prenatal test guarantees a normal, healthy baby.
- Ultrasound cannot accurately determine gender in all cases and is not performed specifically for this purpose.

I certify that this form has been fully explained to me, that I have read it, or had it read to me, and that I understand its contents. I have had the chance to ask questions. All my questions and concerns have been answered to my satisfaction.

_____ I also understand that an obstetrical ultrasound is not a treatment for any condition but is performed only for screening purposes.

_____ I understand the limitations of a screening ultrasound.

_____ I understand that currently there are no known risks to the mother or baby during and ultrasound examination.

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____