

OB 1st Trimester Ultrasound

What is a 1st Trimester Ultrasound?

This exam is an ultrasound study of a fetus in the first trimester. It occurs when you are between 5 weeks and 14 weeks pregnant. Pictures of your uterus, ovaries and the fetus are taken.



How does the ultrasound work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. For the exam, the sonographer will apply warm gel to your lower abdomen and place the transducer against your skin to take pictures. When the sound waves reflect back to the transducer from inside the body, an image is created on the screen. Ultrasound does NOT use radiation.

How should I prepare?

- You will need to have a full bladder at the time of the exam (typically three 8-ounce glasses of water)
- Wear loose-fitting clothing that is easy to take off and put on
- We do not allow videotaping or pictures during the exam, but you will receive images of your baby after the exam.

How long will it take?

45 minutes

Why would my doctor order this?

- Dating to verify how far along you are
- Vaginal bleeding
- Look for the heart beat
- Pelvic pain
- Other

What will happen during the exam?

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown so that the ultrasound gel does not get on your clothes. You will lie on your back while the sonographer applies the warm gel to your lower abdomen and move the transducer around to take pictures. If necessary, we may perform a transvaginal ultrasound. This is a transducer that is inserted into your vagina. It allows for a better look at the baby if it is still very small. The ultrasound is fairly easy and you should experience little to no pain. If you are having pain, you may feel some discomfort during the exam, so please let the sonographer know if this occurs.

How will I get the results?

After all of the images are obtained, they are reviewed by a radiologist who specializes in ultrasound. They will send the results to your doctor who ordered the exam. In some cases, the radiologist may review the preliminary results with you after the exam is over.