



Exact Radiology
CLINICS

VIABILITY AND DATING SCAN

What is a Viability and Dating Scan?

A Viability and Dating Scan is an initial pregnancy scan performed between 6 and 14 weeks, although generally done between 6 and 8 weeks. The embryo and heartbeat are difficult to identify before 6 weeks. Prior to this scan your doctor may have sent you for a blood test known as a BhCG to determine pregnancy hormone levels to coincide with this scan. The Sonographer applies gel to your lower abdomen and moves a transducer across the skin to obtain images of the baby. Early in pregnancy it may also be necessary to have an internal or transvaginal scan to get the best images possible for diagnosis. In this case a special internal transducer is used. Before it is inserted into your vagina the transducer will be covered with a sterile latex cover to protect against infection and to ensure that the procedure is as comfortable as possible. If you are allergic to latex please advise the staff who will then use a latex-free cover. During registration for your scan you will be given information about the scan as well as a consent form to fill in. These internal scans do not harm the pregnancy and in most cases there is little or no discomfort. All possible steps will be taken to ensure your privacy and dignity. If you do not wish to have an internal scan then simply tell the Sonographer.

Why have a Viability and Dating Scan?

Most women will not need to have an ultrasound examination in early pregnancy but there are some situations (uncertain dates, pain, bleeding) when your doctor may ask for a scan. The primary aims of a scan at this stage are to confirm a viable pregnancy, the location of the embryo within the uterus and the estimated delivery date. In early pregnancy the estimated due date for the baby is determined by measuring its length from the top of its head to its bottom (Crown-Rump Length). The scan determines the number of babies present (single or twins etc) and in the case of a twin pregnancy we can sometimes get an indication of whether the twins are identical or not. After 6 weeks we can usually also see the heartbeat. If the pregnancy is very early or in the case of a threatened miscarriage sometimes the scan doesn't provide a definite answer about the age and viability of the pregnancy. In these cases you will often need to have an additional follow-up scan at a later date and/or a repeat blood test of the BhCG hormone level.

How do I prepare for my Viability and Dating Scan?

The preparation requirements for this scan will be explained to you by our friendly staff when you make your appointment.

How accurate is a Viability and Dating Scan?

While not 100% accurate, as a general rule the estimated date of delivery can be determined within one week.

Who does my Viability and Dating Scan and my report?

A Sonographer will perform the scan and a Radiologist will view the images produced from the test and provide a report for your referring doctor. Our clinics are staffed by Radiologists with vast experience and by outstanding Sonographers, all of whom are accredited and have undergone extensive training. A Radiologist completes a medical degree followed by at least two years in general clinical training and then a five year specialist training program. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) conducts the specialist training program and sets professional standards for radiologists. All of our staff at Exact are required to undertake ongoing training and development in order to remain registered.



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Things to bring along to your appointment:

- Previous scans from this pregnancy.
- Medicare card (as we Bulk Bill all eligible Medicare services).
- Doctor's Referral (this is a legal requirement).

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