

WHAT IS: FIRST TRIMESTER OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND (VIABILITY AND DATING)



Exact Radiology
CLINICS

What is a First Trimester Obstetric Ultrasound?

This examination is an ultrasound performed in the first trimester of pregnancy. The embryo and heartbeat are difficult to identify before 6 weeks therefore this scan is most commonly performed at 6-8 weeks gestation but can be performed up to 14 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.

During the examination the Sonographer will apply gel to your lower abdomen and move 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. If required, a special transvaginal transducer is used which is covered with a sterile cover for the transvaginal part of the examination. Please let your sonographer know if you have a latex allergy or sensitivity. A transvaginal scan will not harm the pregnancy. All possible steps will be taken to ensure your privacy and dignity during the examination. If you do not wish to have a transvaginal scan then simply tell your Sonographer.

At registration you will be given a patient information and consent form which contains information about the scan as well as a consent form for the transvaginal scan.

Why have a First Trimester Obstetric Ultrasound?

You can be referred for this examination by your doctor due to a number of reasons.

This examination is usually performed for the following reasons:

- Confirm pregnancy viability
- Confirm pregnancy viability
- Investigate early pregnancy pain or bleeding
- When multiple pregnancy is suspected
- Confirm the estimated delivery dates

If you have any questions about the reason for your scan the best person to talk to is your doctor.

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). After 6 weeks we can usually also see the heartbeat. If the pregnancy is very early or when miscarriage is suspected 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 for the BhCG hormone level.

**Exact Radiology
Clinics this service
is available:**

07 3115 9155 CHAPEL HILL
07 3375 9522 OXLEY
07 3372 1939 INALA
07 3219 8877 UNDERWOOD
07 3436 0600 SPRINGFIELD LAKES

07 5317 6050 PLAINLAND
07 5462 3211 GATTON
07 3281 9051 IPSWICH (NORTH)
07 3894 9755 IPSWICH (SOUTH)

WHAT IS: FIRST TRIMESTER OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND (VIABILITY AND DATING)



Exact Radiology
CLINICS

How do I prepare for my First Trimester Obstetric Ultrasound?

A full bladder is required for this scan. You will be asked to empty your bladder 1.5 hours prior to your appointment time and promptly drink 500mL of water. You will need to avoid going to the bathroom until instructed by your sonographer during your scan. Our friendly bookings team will go through the preparation when you make your appointment.

Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment time to allow for registration.

Things to bring along to my appointment:

- Previous scans from this pregnancy
- Medicare Card (as we bulk bill all Medicare services)
- Referral (this is a legal requirement)

Who does my First Trimester Obstetric Ultrasound and report?

The person who operates the ultrasound machine is a Sonographer. They are university qualified and accredited with the Australian Sonographer Accreditation Registry (ASAR).

A Radiologist (Medical Doctor who specialises in Medical Imaging) will interpret the images and provide a report for your Doctor or Midwife.

A detailed report will be made available directly to your doctor. There is no need to wait for a report after your scan. The images will be available for you to view online via the patient portal.

Results of the examination will not be available at the time of your scan, the images must be reviewed by the Radiologist before a report is prepared.



Where to find further information?

More information about this examination is available from the Inside Radiology website at www.insideradiology.com.au or ask our friendly bookings team at Exact Radiology Clinics.