



Dr Stephen P. O'Callaghan (Northern Fetal Medicine/Darwin Private Obstetrics)

Consumer Information Sheet

Introduction

Ultrasound uses sound waves to produce images. The sound waves are transmitted into your body from a small handpiece that looks a bit like a microphone (called an Ultrasound Probe). Some of these waves are reflected and are processed by the ultrasound machine to form pictures. This is the same way the navy looks for submarines. These pictures are shown on a TV screen and recorded.

Ultrasound has been around for about 60 years now and studies have shown that it is a safe technique with no harmful side effects.

Depending on the type of examination you are having you may need some preparation. For some scans you will be asked to change into a gown.

The examination will be performed by Dr Stephen O'Callaghan.

You will be shown into the ultrasound room and asked to either lie down on a couch or sit on a chair. A warmed jelly like substance is then placed on your skin on to the area of interest. The sound waves don't travel through air so this allows transmission of the sound waves into your body. The probe produces sound waves that will form the images. You will be completely unaware of these sound waves and there should be no discomfort during the examination apart from a little pressure.

You may be asked to hold your breath - this is very important because when you breathe the organs go up and down in the tummy. When you hold your breath the organs stay still allowing Dr O'Callaghan can get a better view of them.

Preparation

- There are varying preparations depending on the type of scan being performed.
- You may be asked to fast or come with a full bladder.
- Most other scans don't require preparation at all.
- You will be told what to do when you make your appointment.
- A standard scan takes approximately 30 minutes but please allow a little extra time as sometimes it can take a little longer than anticipated.



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Female Pelvis

The best technique for looking at the female pelvis is by performing an internal scan. This procedure is only performed with your consent and where appropriate for the area your doctor is concerned about. Dr O'Callaghan will explain in detail what is involved. Remember, you are under no obligation to have this done although the ovaries etc are seen well and clearer images are taken. The sterilised probe which is also covered by a protective sheath is inserted into the vagina and manipulated very gently to show the anatomy in the pelvis.

Results

Your scan will be read and reported by Dr O'Callaghan and you will be informed of the results and given a written copy of the Scan Report on completion of the scan. The report will also be sent to the person who referred you. Because the images are digital (just like a digital camera) we will keep them in our computers. You will be given some pictures from the scan electronically and, for Fetal Morphology scans, you will be given a DVD of the whole scan to play at home on a Television DVD player.

Reference documents:	DIAS Practice Accreditation Standards 3 rd edition: 2.2
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