

OB/GYN SPECIALISTS OF COLUMBUS, P.C.

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INFORMED CONSENT FOR ULTRASOUND EXAM

Your physician has requested that you have an ultrasound examination of your pregnancy. This information sheet will answer several important questions about this diagnostic procedure.

What is ultrasound and what can it show about my pregnancy?

Ultrasound uses the same principal as sonar. Sound waves from the ultrasound probe (far beyond the range of hearing) bounce off your uterus and your developing baby producing echoes which a computer converts into detailed images.

Is ultrasound safe?

There has been extensive evaluation of the safety of ultrasound for over 20 years. There is no evidence that diagnostic ultrasound causes harm to either the mother or the fetus.

Types of exams

A basic or standard sonogram provides information concerning placenta location, fetal position, viability, multiple pregnancy, gestational age, fluid volume, and possible fetal abnormalities.

A complete or extensive sonogram is more detailed an exam providing not only the information of a basic, but in addition, more specific evaluation for fetal growth and/or abnormalities.

A vaginal sonogram, in which a special instrument, about the thickness of a tampon, is inserted into the vagina, provides extremely detailed views of the uterus, ovaries or portions of the fetus that are low in the pelvis. This may be used to see the heartbeat or the location of a very early pregnancy, or to evaluate the placenta or birth canal. As with other ultrasound exams, the procedure is safe. It is generally less uncomfortable than a Pap smear.

Does a normal ultrasound exam prove that my baby will have no abnormalities?

While a basic sonogram will detect many abnormalities, it is not definitive for fetal malformations. Despite a normal interpretation of the test, some babies may be born with anomalies not identified by the examiner during the study. Multiple studies have shown less than 50% of fetal abnormalities were detected with ultrasound. While ultrasonography is very helpful diagnostic look, it should not be considered as absolute proof of the absence of fetal defects.

Consent

Should you have any questions concerning ultrasonography, do not hesitate to discuss them with your doctor or the ultrasound sonographer before undergoing the procedure. You are requested to sign this document prior to the performance of your ultrasound examination and to thereby acknowledge that you have read and understood the information contained herein, and have given and informed consent to this procedure.

Patient Signature: _____

Witness: _____