Sun Life Health
OB/GYN

What to Expect During Ultrasound Exam

For the sonographer to be able to provide your doctor with the best images, please read and follow these guidelines:

- A detailed exam may take up to 45 min
- If the patient is more than 15 minutes late, the appointment will be rescheduled
- For Pelvic ultrasounds and OB ultrasounds 20 weeks and earlier, the bladder should be full prior to the exam
- You will only be permitted to video or photograph your ultrasound, but photos of your baby are generally available for you to take home. 3D images are not guaranteed
- Infants/toddlers will need to remain secure in their carrier or stroller. Older children will need to remain seated in chairs during the ultrasound.
- Your sonographer may be able to tell you the sex of the baby; however, your doctor will review the medical results of the exam with you.
- Your sonographer is not permitted to answer medical questions about the results of your exam.

Ultrasounds are commonly performed to more thoroughly evaluate your pregnancy.

The ultrasound will confirm your due date, locate the placenta, measure the fluid in the uterus and evaluate the baby. Most of the time, the sonographer can determine the sex of the baby at the anatomy scan visit. Sometimes, however, the baby does not move into a position where the gender can be determined. The primary purpose of the ultrasound is for medical confirmation of your pregnancy. Additional ultrasounds are performed in the last 20 weeks of your pregnancy when a doctor deems it to be medically necessary. For example, women with high blood pressure, diabetes, and twins will have more ultrasound exams during the pregnancy.