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Welcome to the Fetal Medicine Unit at BHRC the city's high end fetal care center.





Over the past few years with advances in the field of fetal clinics; optimising care for the unborn baby has evolved. The fetus may be at risk because of congenital abnormalities, mental disease, infection, genetic disorders or growth restriction. Fetal medicine involves screening and diagnosis of chromosomal problems, structural abnormalities, genetic disorders, fetal anemia and various other conditions related to the fetus. We also aim at providing high quality ultrasound services to pregnant women and offer examination that are relevant to obstetric problems.

Fetal care involves a multidisciplinary approach with a team comprising of a fetal medicine specialist, fetal cardiologist, paediatric surgeon, paediatric orthopaedician, paediatric neurologist, geneticist, neonatologist and a perinatal pathologist.



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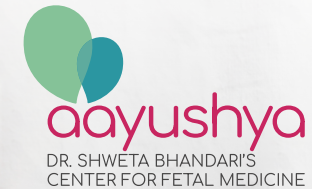


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**Embracing every beat,
every flutter:
Ultrasound, a window to
your baby's world**

Ultrasound in pregnancy

Ultrasound scans use sound waves to build a picture of the baby in the womb. The scans are painless, have no known side effects on mothers or babies, and can be carried out at any stage of pregnancy.

How long will a scan take?

A scan usually takes around 30 to 40 minutes.

However, the sonographer may not be able to get good views if your baby is lying in an awkward position or moving around a lot.

If it's difficult to get a good image, the scan may take longer or have to be repeated at another time.

Can an ultrasound scan harm me or my baby?

There are no known risks to the baby or the mother from having an ultrasound scan, but it's important that you consider carefully whether to have the scan or not.

What will happen at the scan?

- Most scans are carried out by sonographers. The scan is carried out in a dimly lit room so the sonographer is able to get good images of your baby.
- You'll be asked to lie on your back and reveal your tummy. The sonographer will put ultrasound gel on your tummy, which makes sure there is good contact between the machine and your skin.

When are scans offered?

- The first scan is called the viability scan. (At 6-7 Weeks)
- The sonographer estimates when your baby is due (the estimated date of delivery, or EDD) based on the baby's measurements.
- The dating scan can include a Nuchal Translucency (NT) Scan, which is part of the combined screening test for Down's Syndrome, if you choose to have this screening. (At 11-13.6 Weeks)
- The second scan offered during pregnancy is the 20-week screening scan. It usually takes place between 18 and 21 weeks of pregnancy. It's sometimes called the Anomaly Scan or Target Scan.

What can an ultrasound scan be used for?

An ultrasound scan can be used to:

- Check your baby's size – at the 12-week dating scan, this gives a better idea of how many weeks pregnant you are; your due date, which is originally calculated from the first day of your last period, may be adjusted according to the ultrasound measurements
- Check whether you're having more than 1 baby
- Detect if any physical conditions
- Show position of your baby and the placenta – for example, when the placenta is low down in late pregnancy, a caesarean section may be advised
- Check if the baby is growing normally – this is particularly important if you're carrying twins, or you've had problems in this pregnancy or a previous pregnancy

If everything appears normal, what happens next?

Most scans show that the baby is developing normally and no problems are found. This is because most babies are healthy. You can continue with your routine antenatal care.

Scans cannot pick up all health conditions so it's important to speak to a doctor if you're worried that something is not right.

If the scan shows your baby is more likely to have an abnormal condition, what happens next?

- If the scan shows your baby is more likely to have a condition, the sonographer may ask for a second opinion from another member of staff. You might be offered another test to find out for certain if your baby has the condition.
- If you're offered further tests, you will be given more information about them so you can decide whether or not you want to have them. You'll be able to discuss this with your consultant.
- If necessary, you will be referred to a specialist.

Can I find out the sex of my baby?

The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act in India strictly prohibits sex determination tests and sex-selective abortions to address the issue of female foeticide.

The law aims to prevent sex-selective abortions and the misuse of technology for determining the sex of the fetus. Thus, while ultrasound scans are used for various prenatal assessments, disclosing the sex of the fetus for non-medical reasons is illegal.

These regulations are in place to promote gender equality and to prevent discrimination against female fetuses.

Reference: <https://www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/your-pregnancy-care/ultrasound-scans/>



*An unborn child is a canvas yet to be painted,
a story yet to be told, and a love yet to be
fully realized.*

