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Obstetric

Obstetric ultrasound uses sound waves to produce images of babies (embryos or fetuses) in pregnant women, as well as the mother's uterus and ovaries. It does not use ionizing radiation, has no known harmful effects, and is the preferred method for monitoring pregnant women and their unborn babies. A Doppler ultrasound study - a technique that evaluates blood flow in the umbilical cord, fetus or placenta - may be part of this test. This procedure does not require special preparation. Since only your lower abdomen area needs to be exposed for this exam, you may want to wear a loose two-piece outfit. Leave the jewelry at home. Ultrasound is safe and painless. This generates an image of the inside of the body using sound waves. Ultrasound imaging is also called ultrasound or sonography scanning. It uses a small probe called a transducer and the gel is placed directly on the skin. High frequency sound waves travel from the probe through the gel into the body. The probe collects sounds that bounce back. The computer uses these sound waves to create images. Ultrasound exams do not use radiation (such as those used in X-rays). Since the images are captured in real-time, they can show the structure and movement of organs in the body. They can also show blood flowing through blood vessels. Ultrasound imaging is a noninvasive medical test that helps doctors diagnose and treat medical conditions. Obstetric ultrasound provides images of embryos or fetuses in a woman's uterus, as well as the mother's uterus and ovaries. Doppler ultrasound studies can be part of obstetric ultrasound screening. Ultrasound Doppler is a special ultrasound technique that evaluates the movement of materials in the body. This allows doctors to see and evaluate blood flow through arteries and blood vessels in the body. During obstetric ultrasound the examiner may evaluate blood flow in the umbilical cord or may, in some cases, assess blood flow in the fetus or placenta. the top of the obstetrics ultrasound page is a useful clinical test for: establishing the presence of a live embryo/fetus estimating the gestational age of diagnosing fetal congenital abnormalities evaluating the position of the fetus evaluating the position of the placenta determines whether there is multiple pregnancies determining the amount of amniotic fluid around the examination of the baby for the opening or shortening of the cervix assessing fetal well-being Some doctors also use 3-D ultrasound to characterize the fetus and determine whether it develops normally. the top of your page should wear loose two-piece clothing for inspection. Only the lower abdomen area needs to be exposed during this procedure. Radiologists or geographers may choose to examine early pregnancy by means of a transvaginal ultrasound to see the pregnancy more closely or to assess the cervix. For more information about transvaginal ultrasound, see Pelvic Ultrasound. the top of the ultrasound scanner page consists of a computer computer video display screen and attached transducer. A transducer is a small handheld device that resembles a microphone. Some exams may use different transducers (with different abilities) during one exam. The transducer sends inaudible high-frequency sound waves into the body and then listens to the echo escaping. The principle is similar to sonar used by ships and submarines. Technologists apply a small amount of gel to the area being examined and place the transducer there. The gel allows sound waves to travel back and forth between the transducer and the area being examined. The ultrasound image is immediately visible on the video display screen that looks like a computer monitor. The computer creates images based on the loudness (amplitude), pitch (frequency) and time it takes for the ultrasound signal to return to the transducer. It also takes into account what type of body structure and/or tissue the sound goes through. Top ultrasound imaging pages are based on the same principles involved in sonar used by bats, ships and fishermen. When a sound wave strikes an object, it bounces back, or reverberates. By measuring these echo waves, it is possible to determine how far the object is as well as the size, shape, and consistency of the object. This includes whether the object is solid or filled with liquid. In medicine, ultrasound is used to detect changes in the appearance of organs, tissues, and blood vessels and to detect abnormal masses, such as tumors. In the ultrasound test, transducers both sent sound waves and recorded echo waves. When the transducer is pressed against the skin, it sends small pulses of inaudible high-frequency sound waves into the body. When sound waves bounce off internal organs, fluids and tissues, sensitive receivers in the transducer record small changes in the field and direction of sound. These signature waves are instantly measured and displayed by the computer, which in turn creates a real-time image on the monitor. One or more moving picture frames are usually captured as still images. Short video loops of images can also be saved. The movement of the embryo or fetus and its heartbeat can be seen as an ongoing ultrasound film. The ultrasound device also uses doppler, a special application of ultrasound, which processes echoes produced by blood flowing through the fetal heart, blood vessels and umbilical cord and converts it into an audible sound. This voice has been described by the patient as a calming sound. Doppler ultrasound, a special ultrasound technique, measures the direction and speed of blood cells as they move through blood vessels. The movement of blood cells causes changes in the tone of reflected sound waves (called the Doppler effect). The computer collects and processes sounds and creates graphs or color images representing blood flow through vessels the top of the page For most ultrasound exams, you will lie face up exam table that can be tilted or moved. Patients can be changed to both sides to improve image quality. Once you are positioned at the examination table, a radiologist (a physician specifically trained to monitor and interpret radiology examinations) or a sonographer will apply a warm water-based gel to the area of the body that is being studied. The gel will help transducers make safe contact with the body and remove air bags between the transducer and the skin that can prevent sound waves from getting into your body. The transducer is placed on the body and moves back and forth over the area of interest until the desired image is captured. There is usually no discomfort from the pressure as the transducer is pressed against the checked area. However, if the scan is performed above the softness area, you may feel mild pressure or pain from the transducer. Once the imaging is complete, a clear ultrasound gel will be removed from your skin. Any uns cleaned parts will dry quickly. Ultrasound gels usually do not stain or color clothes. Sometimes radiologists determine that transvaginal scans need to be performed. This technique often provides enhanced and more detailed images of the uterus and ovaries. This method of scanning is very useful in early pregnancy. Transvaginal ultrasound is performed very similarly to gynaecological exams. This involves inserting a transducer into the vagina after you empty your bladder. The end of the transducer is smaller than the standard speculum used when conducting pap tests. The protective cover is placed on top of the transducer, lubricated with a small amount of gel, and then inserted into the vagina. Only two to three inches from the end of the transducer is inserted into the vagina. Images are obtained from different orientations to get the best view of the uterus and ovaries. Transvaginal ultrasound is usually done with you lying on your back, perhaps with your feet in a stir similar to a gynaecological exam. Doppler sonography is performed using the same transducer. the top of the page Most ultrasound exams are painless, fast and easy to tolerate. However, sometimes during obstetric ultrasound, the sonographer may have to press more firmly to get closer to the embryo or fetus to better visualize the structure. Discomfort is usually minimal and temporary. If the Doppler ultrasound study is done, you may actually hear sounds such as pulses that change in tone when blood flow is monitored and measured. With transvaginal scanning, there may be minimal discomfort as the transducer is inserted into the vagina. This ultrasound examination is usually completed within 30 minutes. When the exam is complete, you may be asked to dress and wait while the ultrasound image is reviewed. After ultrasound examination, you should be able to resume your normal activities immediately. the top of the page radiologists, a doctor is trained to supervise and interpret the interpretation of exam, will analyze the image. The radiologist will send a signed report to the doctor requesting the exam. Your doctor will then share the results with you. In some cases, radiologists may discuss the results with you after the exam. Further examination may be required. If so, your doctor will explain why. Sometimes follow-up exams are carried out because potential abnormalities need further evaluation with additional displays or special imaging techniques. Further tests can also be carried out to see if there are any changes in abnormalities over time. Follow-up exams are sometimes the best way to see if the treatment is working or if the abnormalities are stable or have changed. at the top of the page What are the benefits vs. risks? Benefits Most ultrasound scans are noninvasive (no needles or injections). Sometimes, ultrasound exams may be temporarily uncomfortable, but should not be painful. ULTRASOUND is widely available, easy to use and cheaper than most other imaging methods. Ultrasound imaging is very safe and does not use radiation. Ultrasound scans provide a clear picture of soft tissue that does not appear properly in x-ray images. Ultrasound is the preferred imaging modality for the diagnosis and monitoring of pregnant women and their unborn babies. Ultrasound has been used to evaluate pregnancy for nearly four decades and there is no evidence of harm to patients, embryos or fetuses. However, ultrasound should be performed only when medically indicated. Ultrasound allows the doctor to see inside the uterus and provide a lot of information about the pregnancy. The risk of standard diagnostic ultrasound has no known harmful effects on humans. the top of the obstetrics ultrasound page cannot identify all fetal abnormalities. As a result, when there is clinical or laboratory suspicion for possible abnormalities, a pregnant woman may have to undergo nonradiology testing such as blood tests or amniocentesis (evaluation of fluid taken from the sac surrounding the fetus) or a sample of chorionic villus (evaluation of placenta tissue) to determine the health of the fetus, or she may be referred by her primary care provider to a perinatologist (an obstetrician specializing in high-risk pregnancies). top page Of this page reviewed on 23 January 2019 2019

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