



# ULTRASOUND EXAM



## REASONS FOR AN ULTRASOUND

- ◇ To confirm you're pregnant and make sure that your baby is developing at the right pace
- ◇ To check to see if you're pregnant with twins, triplets or more (also called multiples)

- ◇ To check your baby's age and growth
- ◇ To determine your due date
- ◇ To check your baby's heartbeat, muscle tone, and movement
- ◇ To screen for birth defects, like

*Screening means determining whether your baby is more likely than others to have a health condition. A positive result doesn't necessarily mean that your baby has this condition.*

spina bifida or heart defects

- ◇ To help perform other optional prenatal tests, like amniocentesis, when your provider has to visualize the uterus
- ◇ To examine your ovaries and uterus
- ◇ To check for pregnancy complications such as a miscarriage

## *What happens after an ultrasound?*

Your provider may want to do more tests, called diagnostic tests, to determine the health of your baby and any potential birth defects.

# TYPES OF ULTRASOUNDS

- ◇ Transabdominal ultrasound, which is the most common type of ultrasound. You lie on your back and your provider covers

*Ultrasound exams are safe for you and your baby. This method uses sound waves to detect your baby.*

your stomach in a thin layer of gel. Then, your provider will move a wand across your abdomen, called a transducer. The

transducer sends sound waves through your skin, and an image of the baby can then be seen on a TV monitor.

- ◇ Transvaginal ultrasound, which is done through the vagina. This

type of ultrasound is usually done early in pregnancy or if the baby is difficult to see. A thin transducer will be inserted into your vagina. You may feel pressure from the transducer, but it should not be painful.

- ◇ Other types of ultrasounds may be used under special circumstances. You should ask your provider about the procedure before the exam.