

**PACIFIC WOMEN'S CENTER, LLC
OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY**

Obstetrical Ultrasound Informed Consent

Patient Name _____ DOB _____

Name of Physician at Pacific Women's Center _____

A prenatal ultrasound is a test that is performed for medical purposes only. An **ultrasound**, also called a sonogram, is an imaging test used to create pictures of internal organs and structures. A device called a transducer is placed on your skin or a wand is inserted into the vagina. The device transmits sound waves that create pictures on a monitor.

Ultrasounds may be performed at various times during pregnancy in order to:

- Establish the estimated date of delivery
- Determine the number of fetuses
- Diagnose an ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage
- Examine the uterus and other pelvic anatomy
- Examine the fetal anatomy for presence of abnormalities
- Check the amount of amniotic fluid
- Examine blood flow patterns
- Observe fetal activity
- Examine the placenta
- Measure the length of the cervix
- Monitor fetal growth
- Determine fetal position

Types of Exams

Two types of ultrasounds can be performed during pregnancy:

- **Abdominal ultrasound:** Gel is placed on the abdomen and the transducer glides over the gel to create the image. You may need to have a full bladder for abdominal ultrasounds in early pregnancy.
- **Transvaginal ultrasound:** A smaller transducer is inserted into the vagina to create an image. A transvaginal ultrasound produces a sharper image and is often used in early pregnancy. This is similar to having a pelvic examination and some mild discomfort may be experienced.

Risks

- No adverse fetal effects of an obstetric ultrasound have been demonstrated in humans after decades of clinical use.
- Mild discomfort may be experienced due to pressure from the transducer on the abdomen or in the vagina. No radiation is used during the procedure.
- Transvaginal ultrasound requires covering the ultrasound transducer in a non-latex sheath and does not pose a risk to women with an allergy to latex.

OVER →→→

Limitations

- It is possible that fetal birth defects that are present may not be seen or may be falsely reported during an obstetrical ultrasound examination.
- Ultrasound’s ability to detect fetal abnormalities may be limited by gestational age, fetal position, and by the mother’s weight.
- Neither a normal ultrasound exam nor the results of any other prenatal test guarantees a normal, healthy baby.
- Ultrasound cannot accurately determine gender in all cases and is not performed specifically for this purpose.

I certify that this form has been fully explained to me, that I have read it or had it read to me, and that I understand its contents. I have had the chance to ask questions. All my questions and concerns have been answered to my satisfaction.

_____ I also understand that an obstetrical ultrasound is not a treatment for any condition, but is performed
Initial only for screening purposes.

_____ I understand the limitations of a screening ultrasound.
Initial

_____ I understand that currently there are no known risks to the mother or baby during and ultrasound
Initial examination.

Patient Signature _____ Today’s Date _____