

## Morphology Ultrasound

### Patient Information

#### **What is a 20 week Morphology Ultrasound?**

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A 20 week Morphology Ultrasound is part of the routine care during pregnancy. Screening is carried out at this stage of the pregnancy, as the foetus is big enough for its body structure and development to be assessed. A Morphology Ultrasound can provide additional information such as:

- The number of foetuses
- The size of the foetus which is correlated with your expected delivery date
- Assesses structural development
- The position of the placenta
- The amount of fluid around the foetus
- Often the sex of the baby can be identified

The Morphology Ultrasound does not detect all foetal abnormalities. The ability to detect abnormalities may be affected by patient BMI, position of the foetus or age of the foetus.

Many people wish to know the sex of the baby which can often be seen at this time. Please be aware that it is not always possible to determine the sex of your baby, usually due to the position of the foetus. You must also be aware that ultrasound is not 100% accurate in determining sex.

If the sonographer is able to identify the sex, you may request they verbally tell you this. At Radiology Tasmania we do not make written documentation of your baby's sex.

#### **What happens during a 20 week Morphology Scan?**

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You will be asked to lie on the examination bed and gel will be applied to the lower abdomen. The sonographer will then place a transducer over this

area with a sliding and rotating action creating images of the foetus.

A number of measurements of the foetus will be taken to assess the size and age of the baby. Occasionally, the position of the foetus can make assessment difficult and you may be required to attend a second appointment for further assessment.

Usually the scan will take between 45 – 60 minutes. Sometimes, a transvaginal ultrasound may be suggested to improve the detail of the images. If this is recommended, the procedure will be explained and consent obtained before proceeding. Please see our Transvaginal Ultrasound pamphlet for further information.

We understand that this is a very exciting time for you and your family, however we ask that the number of accompanying people be kept to a minimum. We also recommend that if you have young children, you do not bring them to your appointment. Young children often become restless which can distract the sonographer performing your complex scan.

#### **What are the risks of a 20 week Morphology Scan?**

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There are no known risks to you or your baby from having an ultrasound.

#### **Are there any post-procedure instructions?**

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You must have a driver with you on the day. You will need to rest the area as much as possible for the first day or two, followed by only light activities for the next week. The radiologist will discuss this with you at the time of the procedure, and a medical certificate can be organised if required.