

How long will the procedure take?

The 18-20 week morphology ultrasound usually takes 40-60 minutes.

What are the potential risks?

There are no known harmful effects on humans from standard diagnostic ultrasound examinations.

Unlike x-rays, ultrasound does not use ionising radiation— its images are obtained using high-frequency sound waves.

There are no known risks to the foetus.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. If patients require more specific information please contact your referring Doctor

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Please bring your Medicare card and any Healthcare, Pension or Concession cards if applicable.

If you have any other related previous imaging from another provider, please bring them on the day.



Morphology Ultrasound



Radiology Department

What is a Morphology

Ultrasound?

The 18-20 week morphology ultrasound is considered part of your routine care during your pregnancy. The examination is performed at this stage in your pregnancy because the foetus (your unborn child) is big enough to assess foetal anatomy and development.

It also provides additional information such as:

- The number of foetuses
- The age of the foetus
- Confirmation of your due date
- The position of the placenta (the organ that supplies nutrients and oxygen to the foetus through the umbilical cord)
- The volume of the fluid around the foetus
- The appearance of your cervix (the neck of your uterus).

The ultrasound is performed for medical reasons to assess the development of the foetus from head to toe.

Before the procedure

You will be required to have a full bladder for the examination. Empty your bladder 2 hours prior to your appointment time. Drink one litre of clear liquid over the next hour to fill the bladder. This will allow the lower uterus to be seen properly on the ultrasound images. It is a good idea to wear comfortable clothing that allows easy access to your entire abdomen.

It is recommended that if you have children, please arrange for child care, and do not bring children to your scan appointment if there is no one to care for them in the waiting room.



Profile of a foetal face 2nd trimester.

During the procedure

You will be asked to lie on an examination bed. Water-based clear gel is applied to your skin and an ultrasound probe (called a transducer) is placed on your abdomen and moved around with a sliding and rotating action.

There is usually no discomfort or pressure as the transducer is pressed against your skin.

Images are taken during the examination.

Many people wish to know the sex of the baby as it can usually be seen at this time. If you would like to know, ask the sonographer to tell you. Mostly it is straightforward to determine the sex of the baby, but occasionally the sonographer will not be able to tell because the position of baby is such that the genitalia are not well seen. You should also be aware that assessment of the gender is not 100% accurate. If you do not want to know the sex of the baby, tell the sonographer before having the scan. A number of measurements of the foetus will also be taken during the scan (head size, abdomen and bone lengths) to assess the exact size of the foetus. The position of the placenta will be determined to assess whether it is away from the cervix. The cervix will also be assessed to make sure it is closed. If the cervix is short or open there is a risk of early labour or miscarriage.

Sometimes the foetus may not be in an ideal position to see a particular part of the anatomy. Occasionally the foetus is in such a position that the anatomy cannot be seen. If this is the case, you may be asked to return on another day to complete the examination. This should not alarm you and is a common occurrence.