

Ultrasound Guided Amniocentesis

Patient Information

WHAT IS ULTRASOUND?

Medical Ultrasound is a diagnostic imaging technique that uses sound waves to visualize soft tissue structures and vessels. Since it uses sound waves and not radiation to obtain images of your internal organs, it is deemed safe for use in evaluating pregnant women and patients of all ages. Ultrasound gel is used to conduct the sound waves into the body and to allow the return of those sound waves to produce a picture. This gel is applied over the area to be imaged. A transducer, or probe, is placed on the surface of the gel and is used to obtain images. Ultrasound is helpful in evaluating the fetus for viability and size and determining placenta location. During an amniocentesis, ultrasound is used to guide a needle into the amniotic sac to withdraw a sample of the amniotic fluid. The amniotic fluid is sent to pathology to be tested for fetal chromosome defects and other genetic disorders.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR PROCEDURE:

You must have a referring physicians order. The physician's office may fax the order to our facility prior to your appointment. Please bring a list of your medications with you.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

All patients must register 15-30 minutes prior to the scheduled exam appointment time. The referring obstetrician will be performing the amniocentesis. The physician will explain the procedure and answer any questions prior to the exam. You may receive a local anesthetic for the procedure.

RECOVERY / HOME:

It is preferable for you to have an escort to drive you or pick you up from the procedure. After the procedure, you may experience some uterine cramping.