

The Maternal Fetal Center, Inc.
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You may have an ultrasound (sonogram), to evaluate your baby. There are presently no known risks to the fetus from ultrasound. However, we cannot predict any future developments in this area, thus we will only perform medically indicated studies.

LIMITATIONS

Ultrasound technology has advanced significantly, and we are able to see structure that is more detailed. However, it is very important to understand that a fetus that appears to be “normal” on an ultrasound may in fact have birth defects. These may include, but is not limited to mental retardation, or other abnormalities that cannot be detected by current technology.

The ability to diagnose many birth defects, particularly those involving the brain, spine, face, heart and extremities, is also limited by the gestational age at examination, the fetal position, the amount of amniotic fluid present, and the mother’s size. Additionally, some birth defects may not be apparent at early gestational ages, and may only become sonographically identifiable as the pregnancy progresses or diagnosed after birth. This is especially true for brain, heart and gastrointestinal anomalies. Chromosomal abnormalities (Down’s syndrome, for example), cannot be diagnosed or ruled out using ultrasound alone. Procedures such as CVS (chorionic villus sampling done in the first trimester, or amniocentesis) will more reliably make this diagnosis.

This information is not meant to cause you concern, it simply makes you aware of the limitations of ultrasound. If the sonogram appears to be normal, the baby will most likely not have a significant structural birth defect.

If you have any questions about your sonogram, please ask us. We will be happy to answer any questions that you have.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT

I have read the above information and I understand the limitations of ultrasound to diagnose birth defects and other abnormalities of my baby and give informed consent for this procedure.

Patient’s Signature

Date

Witness’ Signature

Date