

When is an ultrasound done during pregnancy?

Healthcare providers often use obstetric ultrasound to monitor a mother and baby during pregnancy. Your provider may use abdominal or transvaginal ultrasound early in pregnancy to determine:

- Your due date.
- Your baby's well-being, including heart rate.
- How far along you are in your pregnancy (called your baby's gestational age).
- Presence of multiples (more than one baby).
- Most doctors recommend an ultrasound at 20 weeks' gestation. This test tracks your unborn baby's growth and development during pregnancy. This ultrasound may also show your baby's biological sex. Tell your technician if you do or do not want to know the sex.

Additional ultrasounds (earlier or later in pregnancy) can offer a detailed view of the uterus or ovaries. Your provider may order extra scans to get answers to any questions or concerns, such as the potential of [birth defects](#) (congenital abnormalities).