



Anatomy Survey Scans

Merrion Fetal Health

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Anatomy Pregnancy Survey Scan – 18 -22 weeks

Cost €150.00

To include photographs and computerised report

This scan consists of a full anatomical survey and its purpose is: • to determine the position of the baby • to determine the location of the placenta • to check the amniotic fluid around the baby • to monitor the growth of the baby to ensure that it is growing normally

Anatomy Survey Scan-What To Expect At Merrion Fetal Health?

This scan is also referred to as the routine scan or the 20 week scan. This scan essentially examines the baby's anatomy in a detailed manner and is carried out between 18 and 22 gestational weeks.

The anatomy scan is a non invasive trans-abdominal scan, and it is not necessary to attend the clinic with a full bladder for the twenty week scan.

When you attend the Merrion Fetal Health Clinic for an anatomy survey scan, it is quite possible that you may have been at the clinic for an early pregnancy scan, but if you have not been with us before then you will fill out a registration form when you arrive.

You will await your sonographer in the waiting room. Your sonographer will bring you to the ultrasound room and confirm your details before performing the ultrasound scan. Lots of the time your sonographer will be examining anatomical details of your baby which are not obvious to you.

The sonographer will check all your baby's organs and take measurements and images. She will check your baby's face, baby's spine, baby's abdominal wall, baby's heart, kidneys and stomach. Your baby's arms legs, hands and feet will also be checked. Measurements of the baby's head circumference, abdominal circumference and femur will be taken.

As well as checking how your baby is growing the sonographer will check the placenta, the umbilical cord and the amniotic fluid. The team at Merrion Fetal Health wish to ensure that your visit is as relaxing as possible and we welcome any questions, so please do not hesitate to ask your sonographer any questions you may have.

Anatomy Survey Scan Considerations

Do you wish to know the gender of your baby?

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At around 19 weeks it can be possible to tell the sex of the baby at this scan, but it is not always. The baby may not be in a favourable position to determine the gender. However if you would like to know the gender of your baby please inform your sonographer at beginning of your ultrasound.

Determining the sex of the baby is not always an easy job as we are depending on baby to be in a position that allows us to visualise the genital area and the baby does not always oblige.

What will happen if a problem is suspected?

If at the time of scan a problem is suspected, you will be told at that stage that there may be a problem. A full discussion of the problem may require you to come back for further scanning and a discussion with one of our fetal medicine specialists. This can usually be organised within 24 hours if the problem is deemed urgent.

Most problems that need repeat scanning are not serious and approximately 15% of scans will need to be repeated for one reason or another. At the end of your 20 week scan you will be given images of your baby and a detailed report on the findings of your scan.

A copy of this report will be sent to your obstetrician and/or GP as required.

The table below lists different types of birth defects and how likely scanning is to identify each problem during pregnancy.

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Condition	What the problem is	Chance of being seen on the scan
Spina Bifida	Open Spinal Cord	90%
Anecephaly	Absence of the top of the head	99%
Hydrocephalus	Excess fluid within the brain *	60%
Major Heart Problems		20%
Diaphragmatic Hernia	A defect in the muscle which separates the chest and the abdomen	60%
Exomphalos/Gastroschisis	Defects of the abdominal wall	90%
Major Kidney Problems	Missing or abnormal kidneys	85%
Major Limb Abnormalities	Missing bones or very short limbs	15%
Cerebral Palsy	Spasticity	Not Seen
Autism		Not Seen
Down's Syndrome	May be associated with heart and bowel problems	About 40%

Anatomy scans questions quick references

What is an anatomy scan?

The anatomy scan is normally carried out between weeks 18 and 22 and it is considered a level 2 ultrasound. Essentially this is a more detailed ultrasound. The sonographer should be able to tell you the sex of your baby, if you wish. She/he will take a number of measurements during the scan in order to check that your baby is growing normally.

How long does it take for an anatomy scan?

An anatomy scan normally takes between 30 to 45 minutes to perform, and this depends on how your baby is lying and how much she co-operates.

What is a Level 2 ultrasound?

A Level 2 ultrasound is a scan that goes into a more detailed analysis of the fetus. The fetal anatomy and its development are evaluated during the scan which typically takes between 30 to 45 minutes to perform.

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