



Exact Radiology
CLINICS

THIRD TRIMESTER SCAN

What is a Third Trimester Scan?

A Third Trimester Scan involves an ultrasound of the lower abdomen used to assess foetal growth and size, amount of amniotic fluid that is present, blood flow patterns in the cord, brain and liver veins, placental location and overall foetal wellbeing. Ultrasound is used in this case to assess foetal health by Doppler assessment and by evaluating the biophysical profile. This scan involves a Sonographer applying a gel to your lower abdomen and running a transducer over the abdominal area to obtain images of the baby. This test assesses the wellbeing of the baby by evaluating whether the baby is getting enough oxygen by observing foetal body movement, breathing movement and tone, the amniotic fluid volume and heart beat. Doppler technology examines the blood flow through the umbilical cord artery and in the brain arteries and liver veins to further assess wellbeing.

Why have a Third Trimester Scan?

You will often be referred for this scan by your doctor in the third trimester due to a number of factors.

This may be because you:

- have an inconsistent size when compared with your due date
- have experienced vaginal fluid loss
- have a low lying placenta as seen in the 18-20 week scan
- have experienced premature contractions
- have previously given birth to a small baby
- have high blood pressure
- diabetes or another medical condition
- are experiencing pain in your abdomen
- are expecting twins/multiple births

How do I prepare for my Third Trimester Scan?

At the time you make your appointment, our friendly reception staff will advise you if any preparation is required.

How accurate is a Third Trimester Scan?

No screening test is 100% accurate and this should be taken into consideration when undergoing this scan.

What are the costs of my Third Trimester Scan?

Medicare has strict criteria that states your General Practitioner can only refer you for one of these scans, a second scan referred by your GP in the third trimester will not be covered by Medicare and you will be asked to pay for this examination.

To be eligible for bulk billing through Medicare, any further third trimester scans must be referred by a Gynaecologist/Obstetrician.



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Who does my Third Trimester Scan and my report?

A Sonographer will perform the scan and one of the Exact Radiologists will view the images produced from the test and provide a report to your referring doctor. Our clinics are staffed by Radiologists with vast experience and by outstanding Sonographers, all of whom are accredited and have undergone extensive training. A Radiologist completes a medical degree followed by at least two years in general clinical training and then a five year specialist training program.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) conducts the specialists training program and sets professional standards for radiologists.

Things to bring along to your appointment:

- Previous scans from this pregnancy
- Medicare card (As we Bulk Bill all Medicare rebateable services).
- Referral (This is a legal requirement).

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