

Frequent Questions About 3D & 4D Ultrasound

The questions listed below are the most frequently asked questions about our elective prenatal ultrasound packages. Should you have any questions that are not answered below, please call us at (731) 644-8286 or send us an e-mail at bmckee@hcmc-tn.org.

Q: What is an elective prenatal ultrasound?

We offer elective 2D, 3D & 4D prenatal ultrasounds to provide a positive bonding experience for the mother, father and family members with the unborn baby. We feel that realistic surface images provide a connection between the parents and baby that can be beneficial to the whole family.

We make no claims that 3D as used in this examination is performed to better assess the baby for abnormalities. A routine ultrasound examination must have already been performed to assess the gestational age of the fetus and to evaluate for fetal anomalies as well as the basic components of fetal anatomy recommended for screening.

Q: Does this take the place of an ultrasound at my doctor's office?

ABSOLUTELY NOT! Women seeking an elective prenatal ultrasound with Henry County Medical Center **MUST** be receiving treatment with a healthcare provider for prenatal care and have already undergone a medical, diagnostic ultrasound ordered by their provider to confirm their due date, screen for fetal anomalies, and to look for any other pregnancy related issues.

The issues that we are evaluating in the elective prenatal ultrasound session include a limited diagnostic scan to confirm heartbeat, the number of babies in the pregnancy, the position of the baby, and the placental location. Please note, at no time is this exam to be used in place of a complete diagnostic ultrasound.

Q: Do I need a note from my doctor?

It is our policy that all women requesting an elective ultrasound provide documentation that they are receiving prenatal care. Before your ultrasound session, please have the following form completed by your obstetrician, family practitioner, or midwife. Please fax or bring the completed form with you to your session.

Q: Do I need an appointment?

Yes, appointments are necessary for all of our services.

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Q: *Is it safe? Are there any risks to me, or my baby?*

Extensive studies over 30 years have found that ultrasound has not been shown to cause any harm to mother or baby. Routine scanning of all pregnancies is now normal throughout the United States. In 3D/4D scanning exactly the same type and intensity of ultrasound is used as with conventional 2D scanning. 3D and 4D Ultrasound both utilize sound waves to look inside the body. The technology is similar to radar. A probe placed on the body emits sound waves into the body, listens for the return echo and generates an image. 4D ultrasound will be similar to a conventional scan in terms of exposure.

Q: *How long does the 3D and 4D ultrasound take?*

Depending on the package you choose, the 4D ultrasound session will last between 20 and 30 minutes. If you have purchased the Platinum package, plan on spending 45 minutes to one hour.

Q: *How far along should I be before I have a 4D ultrasound?*

If you plan on having only one 4D ultrasound examination, we would recommend having the examination performed between the 20th and 36th week of the pregnancy. Many mothers obtain more than one 4D ultrasound and have images to enjoy from their second and third trimesters.

Q: *Will I always get a beautiful image of my baby?*

Usually, but not always. If the baby is persistently looking face down, i.e. towards your spine, it may be difficult to see the baby's face. If this happens, a repeat scan will usually succeed because the baby has turned to a more favorable position. We make no promises the images will be similar to those you might have seen elsewhere or even from our facility, or that we can always meet everyone's expectations. Every baby scans differently, depending on its gestational age, position, amount of fluid, and mother's condition. Also - if the placenta is in the way, or for our fuller figured moms, the images will tend to be a bit fuzzier. We promise to make every effort to obtain the best possible images of whatever parts of the baby that can be seen.

Q: *Can I bring my family and friends?*

Yes. In fact, we encourage our mothers to invite family and friends to attend the elective 4D ultrasound session. This is a joyous and wonderful experience, one that can be shared with your family and loved ones.

Q: *Are you able to tell the sex of the baby?*

Yes, in most cases we can provide an indication of the sex of the baby. We can't however guarantee that the baby will cooperate during your session. Certain factors such as body tissue content, developmental stage and fetal position all affect the ability to determine sex.

Q: *Is the 4D ultrasound covered by Insurance?*

Currently, insurance does not cover the costs of 3D/4D ultrasounds. Since this is an elective procedure and is not intended to be a replacement for your doctor ordered ultrasound, you will need to pay the cost of this ultrasound as an out of pocket expense. We accept cash, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.

Q: *What kind of ultrasound equipment do you use to perform the 4D ultrasounds?*

We use the state of the art GE Logiq E9 to complete all ultrasound examinations. This machine is equipped with expert tools and software to obtain the best 2D, 3D and 4D images available. Please note, many organizations claim to use "state-of-the-art" equipment, when in fact they use older or inferior technology.

Q: *How much does it cost?*

We have packages to fit just about anyone's budget. We continuously strive to provide the highest quality products and packages at the most affordable costs.