

21 to 25 weeks pregnant

Information about Screening 22

Ultrasound scan – organ screening

In most cases, organ screening is normal and gives reassurance to the expectant parents.



When?

In every pregnancy there is a general malformation risk of 2 to 3%.

The ultrasound scan is an imaging procedure which has no negative effects on the unborn child according to current knowledge. This also applies to repeated scans.

The best time for the scan is from 21+0 weeks pregnant.

What is examined?

In organ screening, particular attention is paid to **close examination of all visible organs** (e.g. brain, heart, face, spine, kidneys, abdominal organs, extremities, etc.) of the baby, their formation and their timely development.

The position of the placenta, the amount of amniotic fluid and the baby's position are also assessed.

In addition, uterine blood flow (Doppler examination) is measured to assess the potential development of pre-eclampsia and growth delays.

The **length of the cervix** is measured to assess the risk of premature birth.

What does the result mean?

Of course, every ultrasound scan has limitations. Even with the best quality apparatus, greatest care, experience and specialisation of the sonographer, it cannot be guaranteed that all malformations and diseases can be detected at every stage of pregnancy.

Not all paediatric diseases are associated with visible changes in the ultrasound scan. This applies particularly to chromosomal disorders, genetic defects or metabolic diseases.

It is also possible that smaller defects (e.g. tiny holes in the cardiac wall, smaller defects in the spine, finger and toe malformations, etc.) will not be detected. **Some diseases or abnormalities can only develop during the pregnancy** (e.g. kidney, certain heart and brain malformations, etc.).

The informative value of the scans can be limited particularly under difficult scan conditions (strong abdominal wall, awkward position of the baby, low level of amniotic fluid, etc.).

About 90% of all structural malformations are detected during organ screening. Therefore, a normal ultrasound scan cannot absolutely guarantee that the baby will be born healthy.

Overall, an abnormality is identified in approximately **5% of organ screenings, the majority of which are harmless.** However, some malformations require further tests and focused management in specialist centres.

I have read, understood and have taken note of the above information about the test, its limitations and potential consequences.



Name of patient

Vienna, (date)

Signature of patient

Signature of doctor

