

More Extensive Tests

Ultrasound is useful in determining the age of the baby, the position of the placenta and in determining the date of delivery. Many people like to learn if they are going to have a boy or a girl. This technology sends soundwaves into a body and gives a fairly accurate picture of the baby in utero. You may accompany your partner to this appointment, so you too can ask questions about what you are seeing. Most technicians are happy to point out the organs of the developing baby – later dates will make all of this easier to see and understand. Ultrasound is also used to determine if those alpha fetoproteins were raised due to the existence of a second baby. Medical staff may be able to pick out abnormalities with the brain and the kidneys of the baby. Some couples get really excited about this type of test as it is the first visual of the developing child.

Be aware that these pictures are usually read right, but we cannot tell you how many times people have read them incorrectly. This can be scary if you are told that the baby has no kidneys or something. Remember, to support your partner best, don't react negatively. The more likely misinformation you'll receive will be about the baby's sex. You can always have another ultrasound done.