

## **Your Baby Ultrasound: What You'll See | Kaiser Permanente**

[Music]

In the second trimester around 18 to 20 weeks, you'll get your anatomy scan. That ultrasound is extremely important to look at all of the baby's anatomy.

It's a time period where you'll be able to not only see the gender of your baby, but also see the rest of the anatomical details. So we're talking about the structure of the heart, the kidneys, the fingers, the toes.

Most parents are really excited because this is the ultrasound that you get to find out if it's a boy or a girl. But what we're looking for is normal anatomy, making sure that there's no congenital abnormalities or issues that we need to anticipate at the time of your delivery.

But there are some things that we cannot tell with ultrasound that we have other tests for. So be reassured, if there's anything we are concerned about, we will send you for additional testing.

Also sometimes people worry that the ultrasound is going to hurt the baby. The baby won't be harmed by having an ultrasound or multiple ultrasounds during a pregnancy.

So just enjoy looking at pictures of your baby and seeing front views of your

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baby. And then when you come back for your visit, you'll be able to get the full report on your baby's anatomy and on all those markers that we look for, like where your placenta is at and how long your cervix is.

At first it was hard when you can't feel the baby at all. The only thing you have is symptoms. And so when you get to see the ultrasound, then you think okay, that's real. And when my husband got to see, it was certainly more real for him.

And that was probably the best part of pregnancy because you get to see your baby grow and just see all of her developments and see her move. And my husband was looking at every single ultrasound. So it was something that we could do together.

I highly encourage the partners to participate in their prenatal visits. They're often very, very excited about that anatomy ultrasound where they can actually see the things that that mom is experiencing.

We spent 45 minutes on an ultrasound looking at your baby and measuring every nook and cranny of her, the nostril, the brain, the heart.

The technology is crazy. It's like this is the left, you know, aortic whatever. And this is like oh my God. You can see so many things.

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I'm really glad that my partner came to my appointment with me. Both of us hearing that heartbeat together just made it really special and feel much more real.

It's really a spectacular, spectacular thing to be able to feel that connected and have that kind of chemistry in relationship to a child that's still inside you.

[End of recording]