

National Birth Defects Awareness Month & Ultrasounds



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



Every 4½ minutes, a baby is born with a birth defect.

Prenatal care and screening, including ultrasounds, help provide early diagnosis that allows families to make decisions and plan for the future.

The first trimester ultrasound looks for extra fluid behind the baby's neck between weeks 11-13 of pregnancy.

If there is increased fluid found on the ultrasound, there could be a chromosomal disorder or heart defect in the baby.



**First Trimester
Screening
Ultrasound**

Second Trimester Anomaly Ultrasound



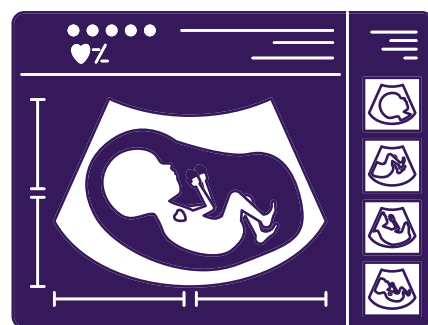
The second trimester ultrasound is usually completed around 18–20 weeks of pregnancy.

The ultrasound is used to check the size of the baby and look for structural anomalies.

If the result of a screening test is abnormal, doctors usually offer further **diagnostic tests** to determine if birth defects or other possible problems with the baby are present.

A level II ultrasound looks in more detail for possible birth defects that were suggested in the previous screening tests.

It is usually completed between weeks 18 and 22 of pregnancy.



**High Resolution
Ultrasound**

3%

Birth defects affect one in every 33 babies (about 3% of all babies) born in the United States each year.

20%

Birth defects are the leading cause of infant deaths, accounting for 20% of all infant deaths.