

Understanding the Morphology Scan: Key Information for Expecting Parents

Highlights

Ultrasound scans are routinely offered during pregnancy.

A morphology scan at 18 to 22 weeks is part of standard pregnancy care.

The scan helps monitor the growth and health of the unborn baby.

It is your choice whether to have a morphology scan.

In This Article

Morphology Scan

Purpose of a Morphology Scan

Limitations of a Morphology Scan

Performing a Morphology Scan

Preparing for a Morphology Scan

Procedure During a Morphology Scan

Safety of a Morphology Scan

Receiving Results from a Morphology Scan

Understanding Morphology Scan Results

Cost of a Morphology Scan

Bringing a Partner to the Morphology Scan

Voluntary Nature of a Morphology Scan

Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Provider
Tools and Assistance

Morphology Scan

Purpose of a Morphology Scan

Head and brain

Spine

Abdominal wall

Heart

Stomach

Kidneys and bladder

Arms, legs, hands, and feet

Placenta

Umbilical cord

Amniotic fluid level

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Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Provider

If there are concerns, what additional tests or steps may be necessary?

Why is this test being recommended?

What does the procedure involve, and do I need to prepare in any way?

When will I receive the results?

Who will explain the results to me?

Tools and Assistance

Ultrasound Clinics: Many healthcare providers and hospitals offer ultrasound services. Some specialized clinics may provide additional prenatal care services, including morphology scans, and can help guide you through the process.

Prenatal Education Classes: Attending prenatal education classes can provide valuable information about pregnancy, ultrasound scans, and other prenatal tests. These classes may be offered in person or online by healthcare providers or local health organizations.

Genetic Counseling: If there are concerns about genetic conditions, such as the risk of birth defects or inherited conditions, a genetic counselor can provide support and help interpret the results of various prenatal tests.

Healthcare Provider Consultations: Your primary healthcare provider (doctor or midwife) can offer advice on whether a morphology scan is necessary for you, answer any questions, and help you understand the benefits of the procedure.

Support Groups: Joining a pregnancy-related support group, either in-person or online, can connect you with other parents who are navigating similar experiences and concerns. Support groups provide emotional support and practical advice during pregnancy.

Patient Advocacy Services: Some hospitals or healthcare systems offer patient advocates who can help you navigate the healthcare system, understand your rights, and access the resources you need during pregnancy.