

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.

Most parents are really excited because this is the ultrasound that you get to find out if it's a boy or girl.

But what we're looking for is making sure that there's no congenital abnormalities or issues that we need to anticipate at the time of your delivery.

So they're looking to see how the brain is developing, the heart, the kidneys.

They're also looking at the placenta to make sure that that is in a safe position in the uterus.

In addition, they look at the length of the cervix. If it's too short, that can be a risk factor for pre-term birth.

But there's some things 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 different views of your 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 all those markers that we look for, like where your placenta's at and how long your cervix is.

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

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 with me 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.

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 chemistry relationship to a child that's still inside you.