

Pregnancy medical imaging Advertising Feature

Get the best picture of your pregnancy

Pregnancy medical imaging can provide vital diagnostic information about a developing baby including gestational age, checking for multiple pregnancies, congenital anomalies and/or problems with the placenta, monitoring foetal position and growth, and the level of amniotic fluid.

“Radiologists are key members of clinical teams who frequently make the first diagnosis of many medical conditions in children, adults and often the unborn baby. Abnormalities such as congenital heart disease, brain and spine anomalies and issues with the skeleton are often first detected on obstetric ultrasound by the radiologist,” says radiologist Dr Rebecca Hall, of Spectrum Medical Imaging.

“Imaging has now become so accurate, accessible and affordable that it is in many instances as important as the clinical examination.”

New-generation testing and imaging technology has further upped the ante, according to Dr Hall, the biggest recent change being the introduction of non-invasive prenatal screening (NIPS).

“Women can now know from as early as 10 weeks’ gestation the sex of a baby, as well as more accurately be informed of chromosomal abnormalities such as Down Syndrome,” she says.

NIPS involves blood being drawn from a



Radiologist Dr Rebecca Hall, left, says non-invasive prenatal screening (NIPS) provides information from as early as 10 weeks’ gestation.

woman’s arm. Foetal DNA in the maternal blood is then analysed. Testing foetal DNA can detect an estimated 99 per cent of cases of Down Syndrome and identify Trisomy 18 (Edwards’ syndrome) and Trisomy 13 (Patau syndrome) in greater than 98 per cent of cases, says Dr Hall.

“Undertaking NIPS decreases the need for women to have to undergo more invasive tests, avoiding the risk of miscarriage associated with amniocentesis and chorionic villous sampling (CVS),” she says. “Spectrum Woman’s Imaging Randwick has

been at the forefront of NIPS in Sydney for over three years and this has been an absolute game changer. It has changed the way the first trimester will be managed forever.”

Dr Hall says Spectrum’s Randwick centre, where she is based, offers a one-stop service including NIPS, ultrasound, 3D imaging, dating scans, nuchal translucency, 13-week structural scan (which accompanies NIPS) and detailed 18-week morphology scan to assess anatomy.

A third-trimester scan to look at foetal growth and wellbeing is often required.

“Women love the convenience of this package,” says Dr Hall, a mother of two who

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Rebecca Hall

spent time training in obstetrics and gynaecology before becoming a radiologist.

“Otherwise, they find themselves bouncing between their GP, pathology labs for blood tests and separate clinics for scans.

“Spectrum has hand-picked its team of highly skilled obstetric sonographers and we look after mothers-to-be for the whole journey, making sure nothing is overlooked.

“The reporting doctors have a special interest in the field, with some working at the Royal Hospital for Women and others having women’s imaging fellowships.”

Two of Spectrum’s eight Sydney locations – Randwick and Liverpool – offer dedicated women’s imaging. Both centres also specialise in 3D mammography (tomosynthesis) breast ultrasound, breast MRI and breast biopsies, as well as pelvic ultrasound and MRI for gynaecological conditions.

“Our service is extremely personal and results are prompt,” says Dr Hall. “We also offer genetic counselling for any abnormal NIPS results and have a close relationship with the maternal-foetal medicine units at both the Royal Hospital for Women and Liverpool Hospital. Therefore, referrals for any abnormalities are efficient and streamlined.”



Spectrum women's imaging

We aim to provide a professional imaging service where women are treated sensitively by experienced empathetic staff in a centre dedicated to the health and wellbeing of women.

Our services include:

- 1st Trimester / 2nd Trimester / 3rd Trimester pregnancy ultrasound scans
- NIPS (Non Invasive Pre-Natal Screening)
- Nuchal Translucency ultrasound
- Pelvic Ultrasound
- Pelvic MRI
- 3D Mammography / Tomosynthesis
- Breast Biopsies
- Breast MRI






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