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Information about ultrasound in pregnancy

On the recommendation of DEGUM [German society for ultrasound in medicine], the working group for ultrasound diagnostics in DGGG [German society for obstetrics and gynaecology] and DPGP [German society for prenatal and obstetric medicine]

Dear Mrs./Ms. _____

You have come to our practice to have an ultrasound examination of your unborn child. Ultrasound screening enables us to detect or rule out many disorders, including a variety of deformities and conditions that are found in unborn children. Before we perform the ultrasound examination, we would like to ask you to take note of the following:

Ultrasound examination is an imaging procedure that, according to the latest scientific knowledge, does not have any negative effects on or harm the unborn child. This also applies to repeated examinations.

Even with high quality equipment, carefulness and attention of an experienced ultrasonographer, we cannot expect to be able to detect all deformities and changes at every stage of the pregnancy.

It is possible that existing defects may not be detected, e.g. a heart defect, a cleft lip and palate, defects in the area of the spinal column and deformities of the fingers and toes. Unfavourable examination conditions, as a result of the following, may make it more difficult to assess the unborn baby:

- Decreased quantity of amniotic fluid
- Unfavourable fetal position
- Maternal Obesity
- Scars.

Accordingly, there is still a risk in the percentage range of the presence of developmental disorders. We would like to point out that chromosome abnormalities (e.g. trisomy 21) or metabolic disorders cannot be ruled out by ultrasound examination of the baby. Interventions such as amniocentesis, placental puncture or foetal blood sampling by umbilical cord puncture are still necessary for a reliable diagnosis.

Normal ultrasound findings cannot be a guarantee for the healthfulness and normal development of the child. **By signing, you declare that you have acknowledged and understood the limitations of ultrasound examinations.**

Bonn, _____ (date)
(Patient signature)