



WHY IS ULTRASOUND SO IMPORTANT IN PREGNANCY?

During the first trimester, a fetal ultrasound determines the health of an early pregnancy with first trimester screening.

During the second trimester, a fetal ultrasound rules out most birth defects with a comprehensive evaluation of the fetal anatomy.

During the third trimester, a fetal ultrasound evaluates the size of the developing baby and identifies pregnancies with abnormal growth.

FETAL ULTRASOUND

WHAT IS A FETAL ULTRASOUND?

An ultrasound examination or sonogram consists of an imaging technique that generates a high quality image of the developing fetus within the uterus.

WHY IS IT PERFORMED?

Many birth defects, such as spina bifida, heart defects, brain abnormalities, cleft lip, club foot, chest, abdominal and genitourinary abnormalities can be diagnosed while the fetus is between 18-20 weeks. If the abnormality exists, pediatric subspecialists including heart surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, craniofacial surgeons, neurosurgeons or intensive care specialists can meet with the expecting parents to help them understand the course of medical care once the baby is born. In certain cases, the specific abnormality may require pediatric subspecialty care to be present at the time of delivery.

WHY DO I NEED AN ULTRASOUND IF MY CVS OR AMNIOCENTESIS WAS NORMAL?

Diagnostic tests such as chorionic villus sampling and amniocentesis identify abnormalities in the chromosomes of developing fetuses (such as Down syndrome). While birth defects are more common in fetuses with chromosome abnormalities, birth defects are also relatively common in fetuses with normal chromosomes. Therefore, a normal CVS or amniocentesis does not eliminate the need for comprehensive ultrasound.

DOES ULTRASOUND POSE ANY RISKS TO MY DEVELOPING BABY?

No. Ultrasound technology is amazing. The probe that is used to generate the ultrasound image emits an ultrasound wave that reflects off of the developing fetus to help generate a high-resolution image. The amount of time the probe emits sounds waves is approximately 1/1000 of the time it spends listening. That means that if the ultrasound exam were to last 24 hours, the fetus would be exposed to roughly 1 minute of ultrasound energy.

WHY SHOULD I HAVE MY ULTRASOUND PERFORMED BY DIABLO VALLEY PERINATAL?

We are a specialized referral center that performs more than 10,000 fetal ultrasounds each year. Our sonographers and physicians are specifically trained to obtain and interpret fetal images. Furthermore, our physicians and genetic counselors are specifically trained to counsel and care for any abnormalities detected.

Diablo Valley Perinatal Associates

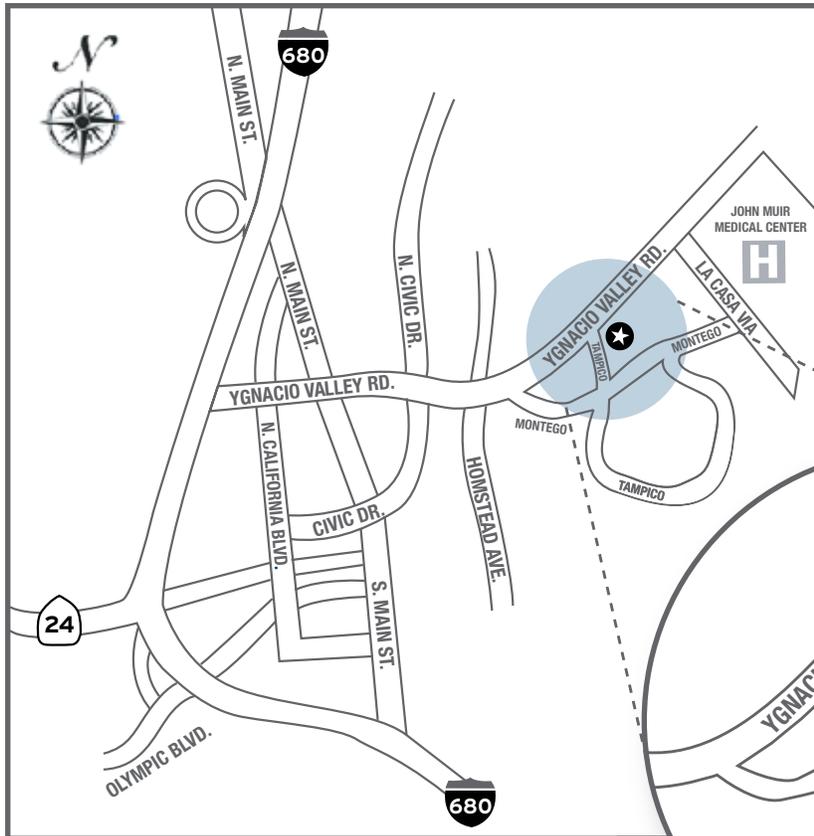
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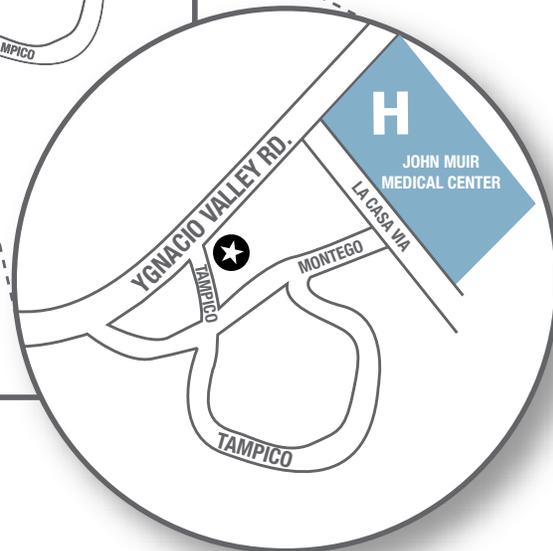


DIRECTIONS



**110 TAMPICO DRIVE
SUITE 100
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598**

FREE Parking available.



FROM THE SOUTH BAY

Follow I-680 North to Walnut Creek.
Take the Ygnacio Valley Rd exit.
Turn right onto Ygnacio Valley Rd.
Turn right onto Tampico.
Turn left into first driveway.

FROM THE WEST

Follow CA-24 East through the Caldecott Tunnel.
Keep left, follow signs for I-680 N/Sacramento/Concord
Take Ygnacio Valley Rd exit.
Turn right onto Ygnacio Valley Rd.
Turn right onto Tampico.
Turn left into first driveway.

FROM THE NORTH BAY

From Interstate 80, merge onto I-680 South.
Exit N. Main Street (southbound) in Walnut Creek.
Turn left onto Ygnacio Valley Rd.
Turn right onto Tampico.
Turn left into first driveway.



**DIABLO VALLEY
PERINATAL ASSOCIATES**

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