ULTRASOUND
AMNIOCENTESIS

OVERVIEW: Ultrasound imaging, also known as sonography, uses sound waves to produce images of the organs, vessels and tissues in the body. You should wear comfortable clothing on the day of your examination. You may or may not be asked to put on a hospital gown depending upon your procedure.

AMNIOCENTESIS: To evaluate the position and location of the fetus and placenta and to guide the clinician to an area where amniotic fluid may be obtained.

PREP: None.

PROCEDURE: The sonographer will position you on an exam table and apply a special gel to your skin directly above the area being studied. The sonographer will move a device called a transducer over the gel-covered skin. The transducer sends out sound waves and receives echoes. These echoes are relayed to a computer for processing and displayed on a monitor as a picture for the sonographer to view. When a suitable pocket of amniotic fluid is visualized, your OB physician will insert a needle and draw out some of the amniotic fluid. This fluid will be sent to the lab for various tests that your physician has ordered. Selected pictures will be saved on film and given to the radiologist for interpretation. Imaging and amniocentesis takes approximately 30–45 minutes.

RESULTS: After your ultrasound images have been reviewed by a radiologist, your ordering physician will contact you with the results in approximately 3 days. Your physician then will advise you of the results and discuss what further procedures, if any, are needed.