

# The Use of Ultrasound in Antenatal Examinations

Emiko SUZUI

*Hiroshima Prefectural of Health and Welfare Faculty of Health and Welfare Mihara, Hiroshima,  
723-0053, Japan*

*(Accepted 2000-05-31 00:00:00+09)*

**Key words:**ultrasound, pregnancy, maternal-fetal bonding, antenatal examination

## Abstract

The rapid development of ultrasound apparatus since the end of the 1950s has enabled sonographers to see many previously unobserved details of the fetus during pregnancy. Ultrasound scanning of the uterus is considered by many to have become an important part of antenatal examinations. Most women expect it to be performed and feel deprived if it is not offered. The policy of many obstetricians is to 'scan' women routinely. In Japan, more than 90% of pregnant women have an ultrasound scan performed during antenatal examinations. Most expectant parents appear to wish for their fetuses to be the object of thorough and detailed anatomical examinations. An ultrasound examination has the potential to be a fascinating and happy experience for prospective parents. However, a diagnosis of a fetal abnormality, correct or mistaken, can lead to psychological devastation. Little research has been done on the psychological consequences of ultrasound examinations. The routine use of ultrasound is being seriously considered for the coming generation.

---