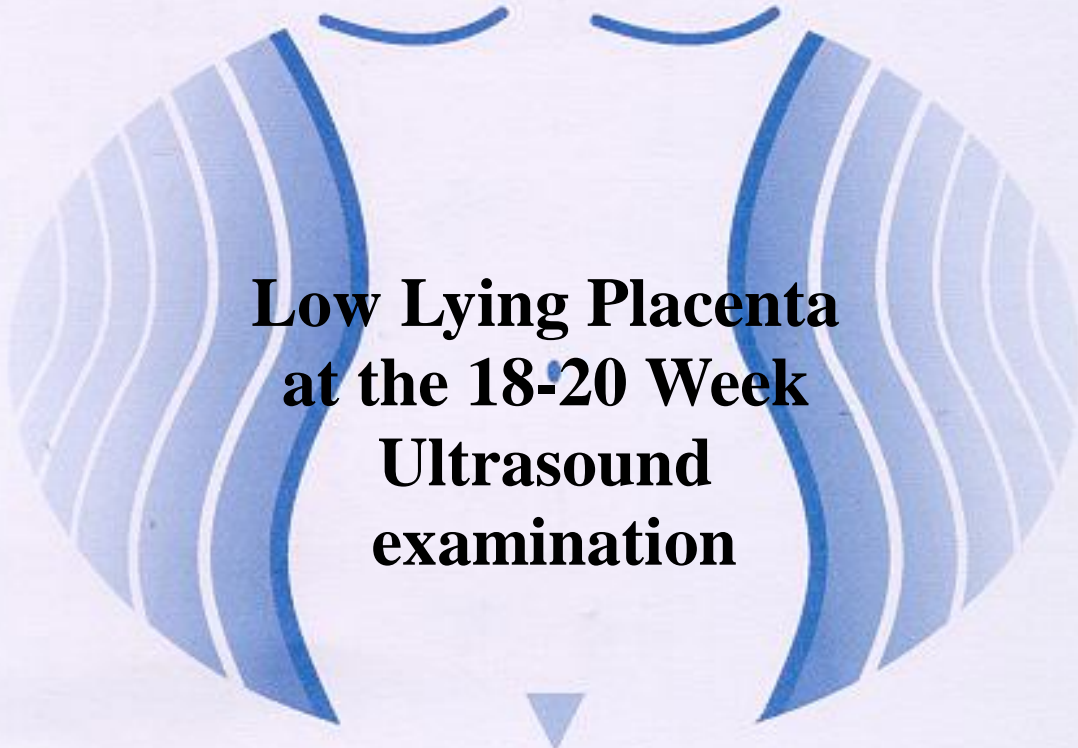


Obstetric and Gynaecological Ultrasound in Mulgrave (formerly Diagnostic Women's Ultrasound), has provided specialist pregnancy and gynaecological ultrasound services to Melbourne's South East and the Dandenong region since 1989.

Dr Simon Meagher is an obstetrician/gynaecologist who has specialised in ultrasound and prenatal diagnosis. He is the Director of Monash Ultrasound for Women, consultant staff specialist at the Mercy Hospital for Women and lecturer at both Melbourne and Monash Universities. He is well known for his clinical and procedural skills and academic achievements, having over 40 publications in local and international journals.

O & G Ultrasound provides a complete range of pregnancy and gynaecological ultrasounds and related procedures including prenatal genetic testing for Down Syndrome. Dr Meagher (obstetrician/gynaecologist/ultrasonologist), Associates and sonographers specialised in obstetric ultrasound, work with state of the art, high resolution ultrasound machines. Together with an experienced team of nurses and support staff, our aim is to provide you with the highest quality ultrasound service available.



Low Lying Placenta at the 18-20 Week Ultrasound examination

Dr Simon Meagher

Obstetrician Gynaecologist Ultrasonologist
BSc MB BCH BAO MRCOG FRCPI FRACOG DDU COGU
& ASSOCIATES

441 Police Road, Mulgrave Victoria 3170

Email: simon.meagher@med.monash.edu.au <http://www.ultrasound.com.au>

Tel: (03) 9790 1766 Fax: (03) 9701 0011

Normally the placenta afterbirth is situated in the upper part of the uterus (womb) or along the front or back wall, well clear of the birth canal see figure 1 opposite.

In 5% of pregnancies at 18-20 weeks, the placenta is situated *low* in the uterus either close to, or covering the cervix (see figure 2). As pregnancy progresses however, the lower part of the uterus grows such that the placenta eventually becomes clear of the cervix. In fact, in 95% of cases the placenta will be clear of the birth canal by 37 weeks of pregnancy.

Therefore if you are informed at your 18-20 week scan that the placenta is low, do not be alarmed. You can continue activities as usual. A repeat ultrasound should however be arranged at around 28-34 weeks of pregnancy to determine if the placenta has moved away from the cervix.

In a small number (5%) of pregnancies, the placenta remains low after 28 weeks. This is called placenta praevia (refer figure 3). A placenta which is praevia may cause vaginal bleeding in later pregnancy. Also in some patients with placenta praevia the baby may need to be delivered by Caesarean section.

In this situation extra care and monitoring of your baby and the placenta may be required. Your specialist will discuss with you the best way to manage this situation and advise you of any precautions you should take.

Prepared by Dr Simon Meagher
Obstetrician/Gynaecologist/Ultrasonologist
MB BCH BAO (HONS), BSc., FRCPI., FRACOG., MRCOG., DDU., COGU

A NORMALLY SITUATED PLACENTA AT 18 WEEKS

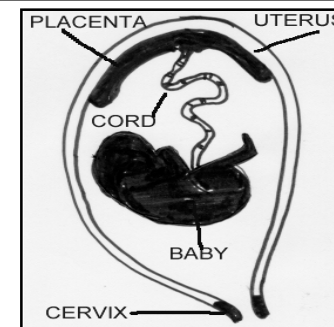


Figure1. The placenta is situated at the top of the uterus well clear of the birth canal (cervix).

A LOW PLACENTA AT 18 WEEKS

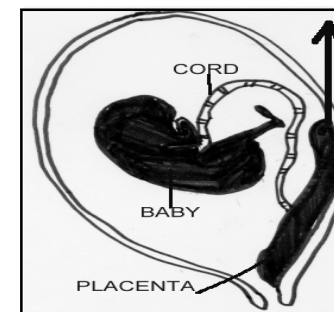


Figure 2. The placenta is situated low in the uterus. In 95% of patients however the placenta “moves up” (arrow) in later pregnancy.

PLACENTA PRAEVIA - PLACENTA STILL LOW AT 30WEEKS

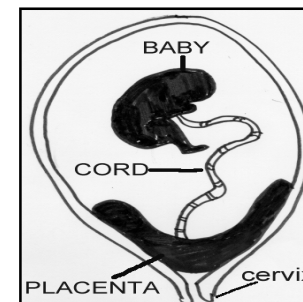


Figure 3. The placenta covers the birth canal (cervix).