

**Appointment
Date:**

Time:

Patient Preparation:
Drink 500mls water approx
1hr prior to test

blood test, 3 days prior

Time For Examination:
40 mins

Please Bring:
Referral
LMP date
Any previous imaging

Locations:
Gold Coast Radiology,
Suite 1 & 2 Harbour Point
10 Santa Barbara Road,
Hope Island, QLD 4212
Phone: 07 55142555
Fax: 07 55142511
www.gcradiology.com.au

**Undercover parking is
available.**

**NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY SCAN
11-13wk**

Your referring Doctor has asked you to have a nuchal translucency scan. This is currently the most accurate and non invasive test for Down syndrome.

It will be necessary to provide the date of your last period, or a previous ultrasound confirming your gestational age (age of the baby). This test can only be performed between 11-13wks of pregnancy. At this stage of the pregnancy the baby fits nicely on the screen and head, tummy arms and legs are clearly visible. These are assessed including a recording of the foetal heart beat.

Nuchal Translucency is a collection of fluid in the region of the foetal neck, it is present in all fetuses in early pregnancy. However it is increased in fetuses with Down syndrome or other chromosomal abnormalities, between 11-13 weeks.

During the scan the thickness of this fluid behind the neck is measured. To work out the individual risk for your pregnancy, this measurement is collated with:
maternal age
gestational age
blood test results
Nuchal thickness measurement

It is important to be aware:

THIS IS A RISK ASSESSMENT ONLY, not a diagnostic test.

The results are calculated using software accredited for calculating the risk of Down syndrome. The detection rate for this is approx 90%. This is currently the most accurate first trimester screening test for chromosomal abnormalities, but a low risk cannot exclude Down syndrome as it is not a diagnostic test. A test can also give a false high risk score for a baby that does not have a chromosomal abnormality. The false positive result will occur in 5% of pregnancies tested.

The 18-20 wk scan is still required to further assess the baby's anatomy, growth, placental position and well being.