

EFSUMB

RECOMMENDATIONS ON NONMEDICAL USE OF IMAGING ULTRASOUND

(last revision 2021)

This statement is similar to that approved by WFUMB (Feb 2013, re-approved Oct 2015, [1]).

EFSUMB disapproves of the use of ultrasound for the sole purpose of providing keepsake or souvenir images of the fetus [2,3]. Ultrasound imaging for nonmedical reasons is not recommended unless carried out for education, training or demonstration purposes. In the absence of supporting evidence of safety, caution should be used to minimize ultrasound exposure to the fetus. The use of ultrasound to provide keepsake images or videos of the fetus may be acceptable if it is undertaken as part of a clinical diagnostic ultrasound examination, provided that it does not increase exposure to the fetus.

The use of ultrasound without medical indication to determine fetal gender is inappropriate and contrary to responsible medical practice.

Live scanning of pregnant models [4] for equipment exhibitions at ultrasound congresses is considered a nonmedical practice that should be prohibited, as it provides no medical benefit, and risks to the embryo or fetus cannot be excluded.

Ultrasonography is a medical procedure that should be carried out only in the clinical setting when there is a medical indication and when carried out under the supervision of a physician or an appropriately trained expert in diagnostic ultrasound. When using ultrasound for education, training or demonstration purposes, the ultrasound equipment display should be used to ensure that the thermal index (TI) is less than 0.7 and the mechanical index (MI) is less than 0.3 (to keep a risk for these applications as low as possible) .

- [1] WFUMB Symposium publication
(Ultrasound in Med & Biol. 36/8 (2010),1209-1212, doi:10.1016/j.ultrasmedbio.2010.04.005)
[http://www.wfumb.info/docs/nonmedicalUse+\(1\).pdf](http://www.wfumb.info/docs/nonmedicalUse+(1).pdf)
- [2] EFSUMB Policy statement on souvenir imaging
<https://efsumb.org/safety-statements/>
- [3] Tutorial article on safety aspects of souvenir scanning (restricted for members)
<https://efsumb.org/tutorial-articles/>
- [4] ECMUS statement on live scanning at exhibitions
<https://efsumb.org/safety-statements/>