

# Doctor presents 4-D ultrasound

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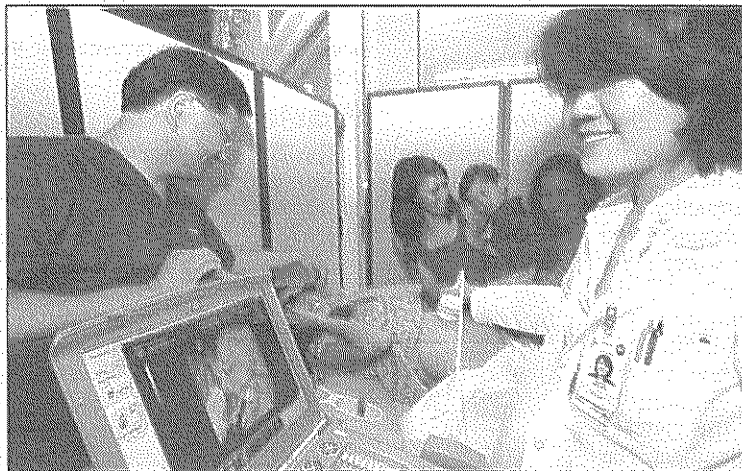
This time, the doctor was out — thanks to a portable device that allows him to check up on patients while on the move.

Obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Thomas Shieh and his associate Dr. Soyoung Bae, performed about 15 ultrasounds at the Guam Premier Outlets yesterday.

With the help of laptop-sized ultrasound machine that captures images in four dimensions — the fourth dimension being time — Shieh said expectant mothers were able to see clearer pictures of their babies moving in real time.

A normal ultrasound provides a three dimensional still image, Shieh explained. But with the 4-D ultrasound, parents can enjoy watching their babies in motion within the womb, and doctors can detect prenatal defects earlier.

“You can see the baby actually



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**Check-up:** Dr. Thomas Shieh, left, and associate Dr. Soyoung Bae use a 4D ultrasound to expectant mother Natasha Blas of Inarajan while Natasha's sister Nikita Benavente and mother Teri Blas look on at the annual Fitness Fair at the Guam Premier Outlets yesterday.

moving,” he said. “It’s useful when you’re trying to see the sex or gen-

der of the baby ... you can even look at the heart.”

Plus, if the umbilical cord is ever wrapped around the baby’s neck, doctors can see that at an earlier stage, and even diagnose facial defects such as cleft lip as a result of the clear images the machine produces.

Shieh said his clinic is the only one on the island with the portable machine, and it can be used if he needs to diagnose cases on neighboring islands, as well.

A 4-D ultrasound costs anywhere from \$150 to \$200, he said.

The machine also is compatible with Wi-Fi, so the doctor can quickly send the images to would-be parents, to his own office for further examination and even other doctors, like radiologist Dr. Nathaniel Berg, if Shieh has a complicated case on his hands, he said.

Shieh will be out with the machine again on Aug. 20, at either the Agana Shopping Center or Micronesia Mall from 10 a.m. to about 1 p.m., he said.