

Sienna Doria

Job shadow narrative

On July 26, 2016 I had the opportunity to job shadow Lisa Vest, an ultrasound technician. She works at Visalia OB GYN medical. For 30 years she's had the same job and she loves it. I choose this as my job shadow opportunity because I was considering it as a career. It seemed like in most cases it would be a positive environment to work in. Whether it be doing an ultrasound on an expectant mom or someone who was in pain to see what would help I would feel helpful to patients.

Throughout the day I followed her around and saw what a day as an ultrasound technician was like. While I was there she saw several different patients some who were pregnant and some with bleeding problems. The first lady was twenty weeks pregnant when she came in she told Lisa that she wanted the gender of her baby to be put in an envelope so they could have a reveal party. Once she had done that she determined that the baby was healthy and at a good pace for delivery, in fact all the babies I saw were healthy. After that we saw a lady that was having irregular bleeding. To get pictures of the inside of the uterus Lisa used a method she called the wand and inserted it into the vagina to look for cysts and other abnormalities. There were several other women after her with the same problem. After them was a lady twenty weeks pregnant with twins. When I asked if it was different doing an ultrasound with twins Lisa said that it was just twice the work and it is a little harder to get pictures because they are so smashed together. When she was done measuring them so told the lady that they were both girls.

This is when she had her lunch break and I was able to interview her, then I thanked her and the job shadow was over.

As the job shadow went on I learned a lot. I didn't know that an ultrasound technician did the wand part of it and I also didn't know there was such a lengthy process in between patients to set up and prep. I liked that Lisa was able to make patients so comfortable even in such an uncomfortable situation. Although it was kind of awkward I also thought it was helpful that I could watch her do all of it.

The experience as a whole was very helpful in learning about the profession and I am very grateful for the opportunity, but after learning what I learned at the job shadow I don't think this is the career for me. I wanted couples to be excited about their babies and they weren't. I also don't know if I could handle the wand part of the job. I don't know if I would have the ability to make patients comfortable in that situation. After the job shadow I decided that I wanted to be a nurse in labor and delivery because I feel like if people were actually having the baby and getting to hold them they would be more excited about it.