

## **Fetal anomalies can be first diagnosed during third trimester scans**

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### **Objective**

Routine third trimester growth scans are becoming increasingly popular in recent years. Some units in the UK already introduced these scans as part of the regular antenatal scan pathways. Fetal anomalies diagnosed at these scans are seldom reported yet they might have significant impact on pregnancy management.

### **Methods**

This was a population-based study of women undergoing antenatal care over a 2-year period in Great Western Hospital, Swindon, UK. All fetal anomalies diagnosed during the 2-year period were extracted from electronic records, then number of anomalies detected in the third trimester scans were identified. Currently, we don't offer women third trimester scans as routine, but it will be offered for various other reasons e. g. growth scan for high risk of small for gestational age fetus. The third-trimester scan comprises assessment of fetal biometry and presentation, amniotic fluid, umbilical and middle cerebral artery Dopplers assessment. We assessed the number and type of fetal malformations identified for the first time at these third-trimester scans. Some of these malformations are detected in addition to other malformations already detected at anomaly.

### **Results**

A total number of 22 pregnancies had fetal anomalies incidentally detected during third trimester scans which were done for various reasons. This comprises 7.3% of overall fetal anomalies detected at the Great Western Hospital during years 2020 and 2021. Anomalies detected at the third trimester scans were classified as follows: 6 (27.2%) genitourinary, 5 (22.7%) gastrointestinal, 4 (18.2%) cardio-pulmonary, 4 (18.2%) central nervous system, 2 (9.1%) skeletal, 1 (4.6%) multiple.

### **Conclusion**

Third trimester scans might be an opportunity to detect fetal anomalies. A quick assessment of fetal anatomy might be helpful while performing these scans. These findings might also support introducing routine third trimester scans as a part of antenatal care.