

This Clinical Practice Guideline was peer-reviewed by the SOGC's Diagnostic Imaging Committee and principal authors in September 2016. Please note, the following insertion: "Examination of the fetal profile, including examination of the fetal nasal bone is strongly encouraged. Second Trimester fetal nasal bone assessment (presence vs absence, or shorter than expected) is a soft marker for Down syndrome, and carries a very high Odds ratio." Otherwise the Clinical Practice Guideline has been reaffirmed for continued use until further notice.

## No. 223-Content of a Complete Routine Second Trimester Obstetrical Ultrasound Examination and Report

This clinical practice guideline has been reviewed by the Diagnostic Imaging Committee\* and approved by the Executive and Council of The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

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**Key Words:** Routine second trimester ultrasound, ultrasound report

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### Abstract

**Objective:** To review the benefits of and requirements for a complete second trimester ultrasound and the documentation needed.

**Outcomes:** A complete second trimester ultrasound provides information about the number of fetuses, the gestational age, the location of the placenta, and fetal and maternal anatomy.

**Evidence:** In the production of this document, the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine's "Practice Guideline for the Performance of Obstetric Ultrasound Examinations," the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' practice bulletin, "Ultrasound in Pregnancy," and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' Working Party Report, "Ultrasound Screening" were reviewed. PubMed and the Cochrane Database were searched using the words "routine second trimester obstetrical ultrasound."

**Values:** The evidence was evaluated using the guidelines developed by the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care.

**Benefits, Harms, and Costs:** A routine complete second trimester ultrasound between 18 and 22 weeks and a complete ultrasound report will provide the best opportunity to diagnose fetal anomalies and to assist in the management of prenatal care. It will also reduce the number of ultrasound examinations done

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Women have the right and responsibility to make informed decisions about their care in partnership with their health care providers. In order to facilitate informed choice women should be provided with information and support that is evidence based, culturally appropriate and tailored to their needs. The values, beliefs and individual needs of each woman and her family should be sought and the final decision about the care and treatment options chosen by the woman should be respected.

during the second trimester for completion of fetal anatomy survey. The costs are those involved with the performance of obstetrical ultrasound.

**Validation:** This is a revision of previous guidelines; information from other consensus reviews from medical publications has been used.

**Sponsors:** The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Pregnant women should be offered a routine second trimester ultrasound between 18 and 22 weeks' gestation (II-2B).
2. Second trimester ultrasound should screen for the number of fetuses, the gestational age, and the location of the placenta (II-1A).
3. Second trimester ultrasound should screen for fetal anomalies (II-2B).

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