

POSITION STATEMENT

Fetal Anatomy Ultrasound Assessments

Purpose

Position statements from the College provide background information and express or clarify the College's intent on a particular matter. They are intended as guidance for stakeholders in areas where events are evolving or changing rapidly, the implementation of processes and procedures may be premature, or it is timely to communicate the College's broad intent before or as policies and procedures are developed.

This document addresses ultrasound imaging for fetal anatomy assessments.

Background

A detailed fetal anatomy assessment should be performed between 18 weeks, 0 days and 22 weeks, 6 days of a pregnancy and is typically performed during the second trimester ultrasound examination. If there is a determination of incomplete assessment of fetal anatomy during the ultrasound examination, a repeat ultrasound examination should be completed as soon as possible. The intent of this position statement is to enhance practice consistency regarding rescheduling an expedited repeat ultrasound examination.

Position

If there is a determination of incomplete assessment of fetal anatomy during the ultrasound examination, the imaging facility must notify the patient and schedule a follow-up ultrasound examination as soon as possible. This will not be considered a self-referral if the follow-up study is performed to complete the original examination. No additional requisition is required.

If visualization of fetal anatomy is still incomplete after the second ultrasound, the radiologist shall report the findings with a recommendation to the referring physician to consider specialized care for the patient (e.g. referral to maternal fetal medicine).

References

<http://www.perinatalservicesbc.ca/Documents/Guidelines-Standards/Standards/Ultrasound/PSBCUltrasoundAssessmentStandards.pdf>

Contact

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