

Four methods can diagnose fetal nasal bone hypoplasia

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(HealthDay)—Four methods can be used for diagnosing fetal nasal bone

(NB) hypoplasia in the second trimester in order to predict Down's syndrome, according to a study published online in the February issue of the *Journal of Clinical Ultrasound*.

Recep Has, M.D., from Istanbul University, and colleagues examined the best method for use in diagnosing fetal NB hypoplasia in the second trimester as a means of predicting trisomy 21. They calculated and compared NB length (NBL), NBL percentiles, NBL multiple-of-median (MoM) values, and biparietal diameter-to-NBL ratios, and assessed predictive values for several cut-off points using data from 1,689 fetuses.

The researchers found that NBL had 25.5 percent sensitivity using a fixed 5 percent false-positive rate. Sensitivity for NBL percentiles, NBL MoM values, and biparietal diameter-to-NBL ratios was 23.5 percent.

"Our study demonstrated that all four methods can be used in the second [trimester](#) for diagnosing fetal NB hypoplasia as a means of predicting trisomy 21 because their predictive values are similar at a fixed 5 percent false-positive rate," the authors write. "For simplicity of use, we recommend using 3 mm as the NBL cut-off value."

More information: [Abstract](#)
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