

Late third trimester ultrasound may detect missed fetal abnormalities

October 9 2019



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In a study published in *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology* that involved more than 50,000 pregnancies, a fetal anomaly was detected for the first time in the third trimester in one in 200 women who had undergone a first and/or second trimester ultrasound examination.

Most of the fetal abnormalities (68%) seen at 35 to 37 weeks had already been diagnosed in the first and/or [second trimester](#), and the incidence of abnormalities first seen at 35 and 37 weeks was 0.5%.

The study highlights the benefit of a late third trimester scan for detecting fetal abnormalities that were either missed in previous first and second trimester scans or became apparent only during the [third trimester](#).

More information: A. Ficara et al, Value of routine ultrasound examination at 35–37 weeks' gestation in diagnosis of fetal abnormalities, *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology* (2019). [DOI: 10.1002/uog.20857](#)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Late third trimester ultrasound may detect missed fetal abnormalities (2019, October 9) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-10-late-trimester-ultrasound-fetal-abnormalities.html>

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