

Objectives: The prenatal detection of congenital hand anomalies remains challenging during routine fetal anomaly scans. Current guidelines primarily focus on confirming the presence and position of the upper limbs; in contrast, a detailed assessment of the hands and digits is not systematically performed. Given that congenital hand anomalies may be associated with genetic syndromes or other structural abnormalities, improving their prenatal recognition is clinically important.

Methods: We herein propose a structured ultrasound protocol for advanced evaluation of the fetal hand during prenatal examinations. The approach includes a systematic assessment of digit number, position, structure, and dimensions using two-dimensional imaging, with optional three-dimensional surface rendering for confirmation. Sonographers are encouraged to verify both hands sequentially and to reassess hand position and movements to distinguish normal positional variability from true structural abnormalities.

Results: Illustrative cases demonstrate how this structured approach facilitates the recognition of a wide spectrum of congenital hand anomalies, including abnormalities of digit number, position, structure, and dimension.

Conclusions: The use of a standardized ultrasound protocol for fetal hand evaluation may enhance the prenatal detection of congenital hand anomalies and provide a practical framework for sonographers during routine anomaly scans. Improved recognition of these anomalies can guide genetic counselling and multidisciplinary prenatal management.

Declarations of interest: none

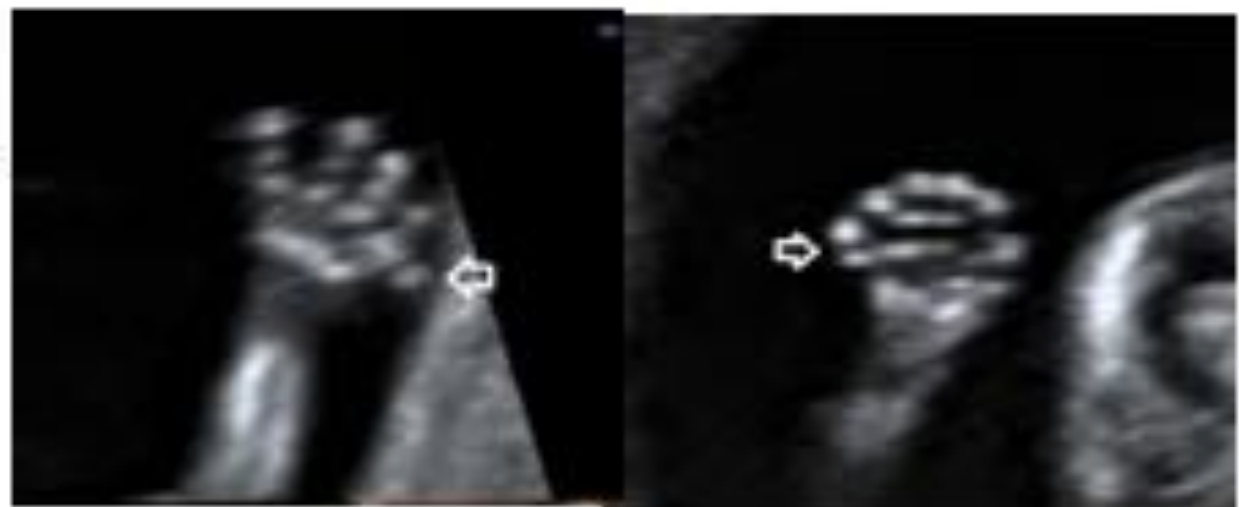
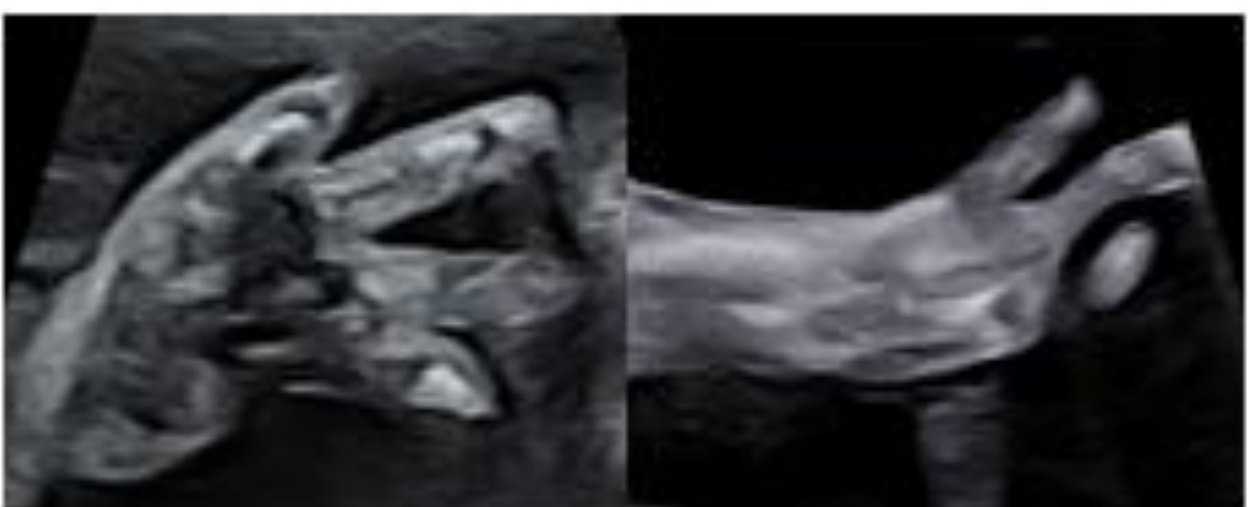
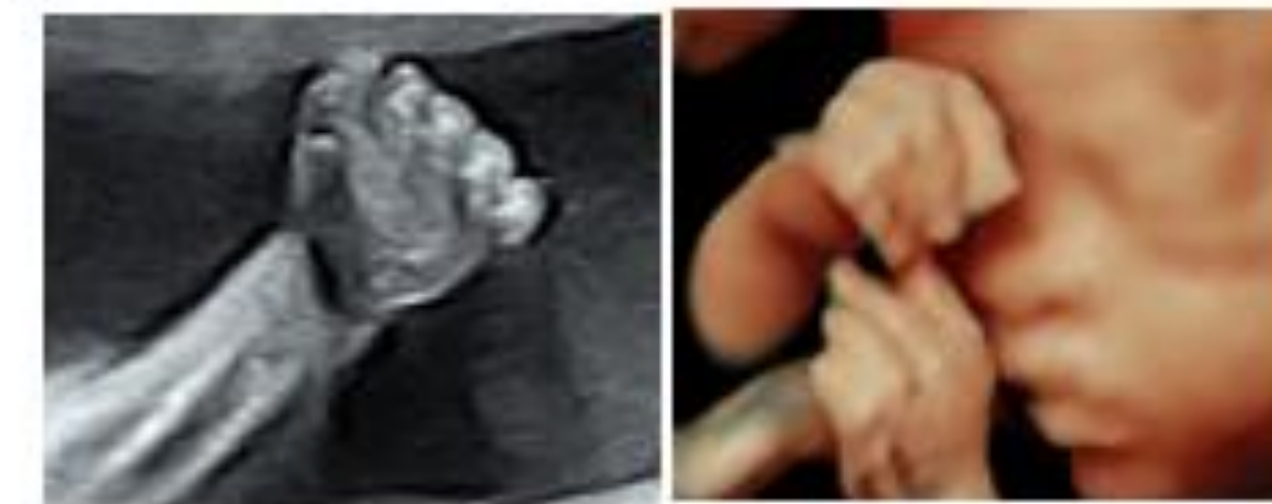
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Toward a standardized ultrasound protocol for prenatal evaluation of fetal hand anomalies

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	Five digits per hand: thumb + 4 fingers				
Number					
Position	Fingers aligned - Reproducible without operator strain → Confirm on repeat observation				
					
Structure	Thumb: 2, other fingers: 3 phalanges each - Adequate spacing between digits - No deviation, fusion or clefting				
					
Dimension	No discrepancies in phalange size				
	