Universal 36-week growth scan: Users' Perspectives'

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Introduction

- In the NHS foetal anomaly screening programme scans are performed between 18 and 20+6 weeks gestation.
- An additional scan in the third trimester is not typically offered.
- Potential benefits of a third trimester scan include:
  - Monitoring foetal growth to identify abnormal growth patterns
  - Increased detection rate of foetal abnormalities and other abnormal findings that may present late in gestation
  - An extra opportunity for parents to bond with their child
- The overall aim was to assess the views of expectant mothers with regards to the third trimester scan.

Conclusions

- From this survey we can conclude that women are grateful and feel reassured by the universal 36-week scan.
- Women prefer to know, rather than not to know, even at late gestations, about any significant abnormalities found in their unborn babies.
- However, more research is warranted to understand if the third trimester scan is an effective tool to prevent pregnancy complications in different populations and to clearly establish if the clinical benefits justify the financial burden.

Methods and study design

Study design: Sample online survey

Methods:

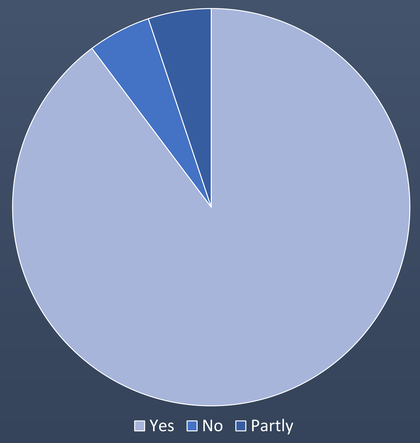
- All expectant mothers attending the Royal London Hospital for a universal 36-week scan across 1 week (9-13 August 2021) were asked to complete a short survey to share their experience at the universal 36-week scan, at the end of their appointment.
- Data was collected by an anonymous Google form including 5 questions, which patients could access on their phones via a QR code; considering the demographic of the area, the survey was offered both in English and Bengali.
- The form investigated
  - If objectives of the scan were explained clearly
  - If findings of the scan were explained clearly
  - If patients felt reassured by having an additional growth scan in pregnancy
  - If patients would want to know about late-onset abnormalities identified in the third trimester
  - Patients were also asked to rate their experience on the day and provide any additional feedback they had

Results

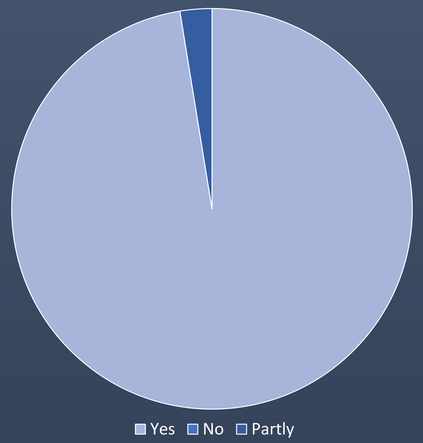
Thirty-nine out of 92 (42%) patients scanned over the week completed the survey. The results showed that:

- 90% of those surveyed felt that the objectives of the scan were explained accurately to them
- 97% felt that the findings of the scan were accurately described to them by their practitioner
- 100% found the additional growth scan reassuring
- 95% would want to know if a significant abnormality was found in their baby even in the third trimester
- All patients who attended rated their experience as either excellent or good

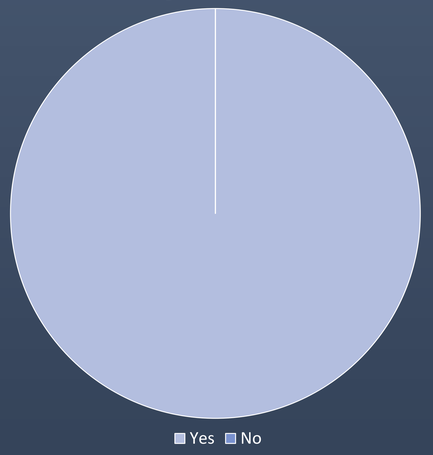
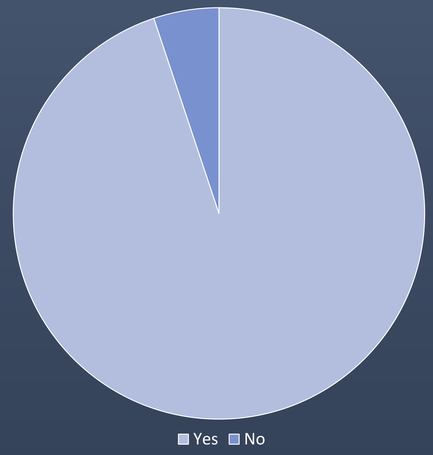
Did you feel that the objective pf the scan was explained to you?



Do you feel that the doctor explained clearly the findings of the scan?



Do you feel that having a scan in the third trimester is reassuring for expectant mums?



Would you still want to know if a significant problem was diagnosed in your baby at this stage of pregnancy?