

## **Patient Information Sheet - Detailed Scans.**

Detailed fetal scans are generally carried out at between 18-24 weeks gestation, depending upon the referral reason. Some fetal problems can be visualised earlier or are not possible to detect until later in the pregnancy and therefore the timing of the scan is tailored to individual needs.

### **Referral Reasons.**

- Previous pregnancy affected by fetal abnormality.
- Suspected or diagnosed abnormality in current pregnancy.
- Multiple pregnancy (Twins, Triplets etc).
- Increased risk of fetal abnormality from serum or ultrasound screening tests.

When you attend for your detailed scan you may be scanned by more than one person. The fetal medicine department is involved in teaching and a trainee may be scanning with a member of the fetal medicine team. We also have highly trained sonographers (advanced practitioners) who work closely with the team.

The scan involves a very detailed and in depth survey of the pregnancy. The scan may last twenty minutes or longer, a lot depends upon the position of the fetus and the intricacy of the abnormality. During the scan the doctor is unlikely to speak continuously, as he/she is concentrating, however he/she will give a brief overview of the findings before you leave the ultrasound room.

Following the scan you and your partner will be shown into a quiet, private room where the doctor and one of the fetal medicine midwives will see you and discuss the scan findings (in detail) with you. This is your opportunity to ask any questions you may have. (It is useful to write down any questions before your appointment). Your questions will be answered fully and honestly.

If a problem has been found or confirmed the team will discuss the options open to you. You may feel that you cannot make any decision at this visit and would prefer some time at home to think and to discuss the situation with your family. You will be given a contact telephone number and the name of one of the fetal medicine midwives.

If you do make the decision to have the relevant investigations these can generally be performed at your initial visit.

The department has close links with the regional clinical genetics department and Birmingham Children's Hospital. It may be beneficial for you to meet with a geneticist or a paediatrician to give you additional information concerning your pregnancy. If the problem diagnosed is surgically repairable we will arrange for you to meet with the appropriate surgeon from the children's hospital.

We hope to provide you with as much useful information as possible in order to assist you with you decision making regarding the future management of you pregnancy and the delivery of your baby.

For some women it is advisable to transfer care to Birmingham Women's hospital, however in the majority of cases your care will continue at your referring hospital with follow-up scans at the Fetal Medicine Centre as necessary.