

Guideline for Use of Prenatal Ultrasound: First Trimester

Summary of the Alberta Clinical Practice Guideline, April 1998

Recommendations

- ◆ Ultrasound as a routine examination in the first trimester is **NOT** recommended:
 - to diagnose pregnancy
 - for dating when LMP and physical examination are concordant
- ◆ Ultrasound in the first trimester **IS** indicated:
 - to date pregnancy when last menstrual period date is unknown or uncertain
 - to confirm suspected ectopic pregnancy, hydatidiform mole, or pelvic mass
 - prior to planned termination of pregnancy or if medical intervention is anticipated
 - when guided visualization is required during invasive diagnostic procedures i.e., amniocentesis, chorionic villus sampling, and selective reduction of multifetal pregnancies
 - when multiple gestation is suspected to allow for reliable determination of chorionicity / amnionicity
 - to assess threatened abortion

At this time no recommendation can be made to support or refute the use of serial ultrasound in the management of threatened spontaneous abortion

- for nuchal translucency screening which should only be offered as part of a comprehensive prenatal screening and counseling program by experienced operators with appropriate quality assurance processes in place.