

## Fetal sex determination by ultrasound

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- Fetal sex determination by ultrasound is recommended as an integral part of prenatal examination for malformations in the second trimester (B).
- Examination of the fetal genitals should aim to exclude serious external genital malformations (B). In case of genital malformations a multidisciplinary prenatal testing program is initiated.
- The pregnant woman and her partner are presented with the possibilities and limitations of fetal sex determination. Information is given as well to couples seeking knowledge of the fetal gender, as to couples deselected the knowledge (B-C). Fetal sex is disclosed to the pregnant couples, if they have expressed a wish of knowledge and the fetal gender is sufficiently presented.
- Fetal sex determination is performed by ultrasound in the pregnancy from second trimester with direct visualization of the external genitals: labia, penis and scrotum (B).
- Fetal sex determination is performed by 2D abdominal scan, and the fetal genitals should be obtained in a sagittal and a transverse projection. Alternatively, the tangential projection can be obtained as a substitute for the transverse view, preferably all three projections (B).
- Vaginal scan and 3D technique can be used as needed or as a supplementary examination on suspicion of a malformation of the genitals (BC).
- In case of doubt the internal genitals can be obtained complementary (B).
- Early in the second trimester (from GA 15-16 weeks) "The sagittal sign" can be used for the assessment of the fetal sex. The angle of the fetal genital tubercle obtained in relation to a horizontal line along the lumbosacral skin surface gives indication of the fetal gender.  
Fetal genital tubercle > 30 degrees (cranially) is a male), < 30 degrees (caudally) is a female (B).
- Fetal sex determination is not recommended before GA 14+0 due to the uncertainty of the test results (B). Excluded is medically indicated fetal sex determination.
- Fetal sex determination is an important factor in examination for chorionicity in multifetal pregnancy.
- Fetal sex determination is registered by ticking in the results in the Astraia database under "Biometrics/Anatomy" and the tab "Genitals".
- It is recommended to produce and store image documentation of the fetal sex.
- For lack of visualization of the fetal genitals this guideline refers to local /regional recommendations for possibilities of a verification scan.