



Risk of congenital anomalies in children born after IVF / ICSI: what to tell your patient?



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>5 million babies born after ART

Stephoe PC, Edwards RG. Birth after the reimplantation of a human embryo. *Lancet* 1978;2(8085):366

Nygren KG *et al.*: International Committee for Monitoring Assisted Reproductive Technology (ICMART) world report: assisted reproductive technology 2003. *Fertil Steril* 2011;95:2209–22.



Definition

Congenital anomalies are also known as birth defects, congenital disorders or congenital malformations.

Congenital anomalies can be defined as structural or functional anomalies (for example, metabolic disorders) that occur during intrauterine life and can be identified prenatally, at birth, or may only be detected later in infancy, such as hearing defects.



SIR,—In analysing further data from the register of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) and gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) pregnancies in Australia and New Zealand,¹ we found more infants than expected with two types of congenital malformation—namely, spina bifida and transposition of the great vessels.

Lancaster PAL. Congenital malformations after in-vitro fertilization. [The Lancet December 12, 1987](#)



Infants conceived with use of intracytoplasmic sperm injection or in vitro fertilization have **twice as high a risk of a major birth defect** as naturally conceived infants.

Hansen et al. The risk of major birth defects after intracytoplasmic sperm injection and in vitro fertilization. **N Engl J Med 2002**; 346: 725-30.



Congenital anomalies

ART vs. Non ART infants

Reported meta-analyses on birth defects and assisted reproductive technologies

Early meta- analyses	Number of articles	Number ART Infants	Pooled estimate (95% CI)
Rimm et al (2004)	19	35 578	1.29 (1.01 – 1.67)
Hansen et al (2005)	25	28 638	1.29 (1.21 – 1.37)

Recent meta- analyses	Number of articles	Number ART Infants	Pooled estimate (95% CI)
Wen et al (2012)	46	124 468	1.37 (1.26 – 1.48)
Hansen et al (2013)	45	92 671	1.32 (1.24 – 1.42)

ARTs increase risk of birth defects by about 30%



- **ART:** **6 163**
- **Controls:** **308 974**

Birth defects

IVF RR: 1.07 (95%CI 0.90-1.26)

ICSI RR: 1.57 (95%CI 1.30-1.90)

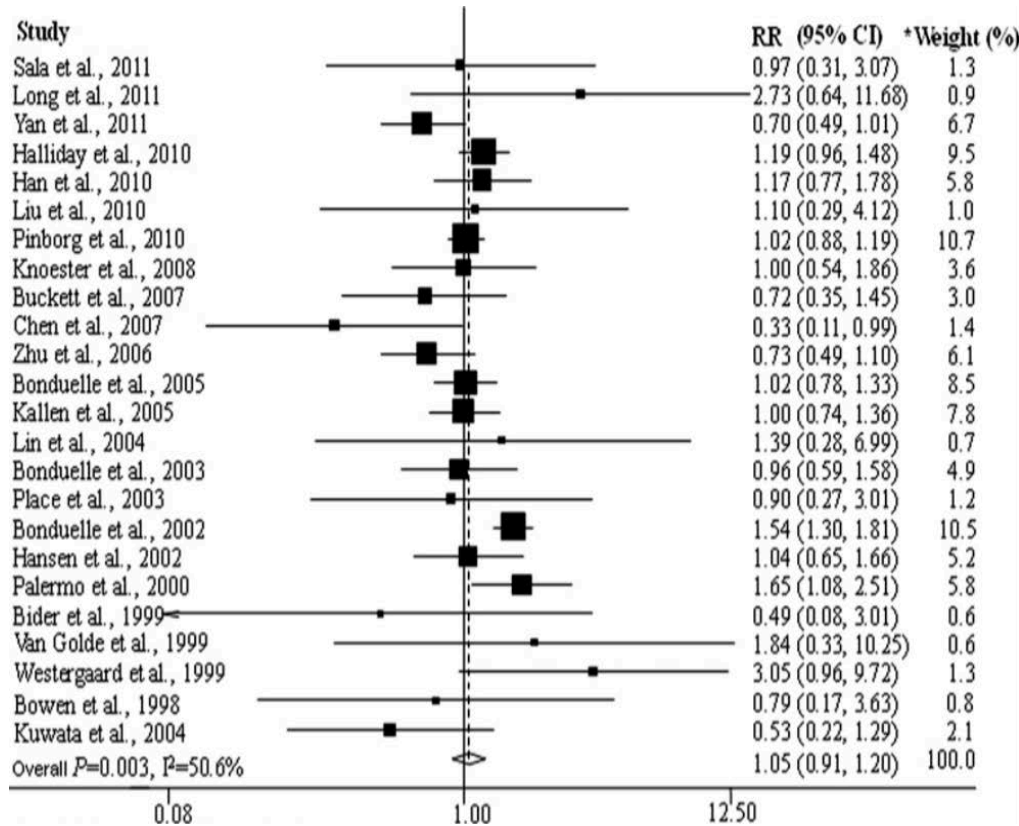
ICSI: increases risk of birth defects

IVF: Does not increase risk of birth defects



Congenital anomalies

Effect of type of ART



- **IVF:** 46 890
- **ICSI:** 27 754
- **RR:** 1.05 (95%CI 0.91-1.20)

No difference in congenital anomalies between IVF and ICSI

Wen *et al.* Birth defects in children conceived by in vitro fertilization and intracytoplasmic sperm injection: a meta-analysis. *Fertil Steril* 2012;

OR (95% CI) for severe malformations after IVF:

• Fresh ejaculated ICSI	0.90 (0.78-1.04)
• Fresh IVF	1.00 reference
• Cryopreserved ejaculated ICSI	1.01 (0.76-1.33)
• Fresh ejaculated ICSI	1.00 reference
• Cryopreserved ejaculated ICSI	0.75 (0.53-1.06)
• Cryopreserved IVF	1.00 reference
• Fresh epididymal ICSI	1.07 (0.41-2.92)
• Fresh testicular ICSI	1.00 reference
• Fresh non-ejaculated ICSI	1.13 (0.72-1.87)
• Fresh ejaculated ICSI	1.00 reference
• Cryopreserved non-ejaculated ICSI	0.95 (0.30-2.99)
• Fresh non-ejaculated ICSI	1.00 reference

Congenital malformations in infants after IVF:

- Central nervous system
- Cardiovascular system
- Urogenital system
- Limb reduction defects

No difference between different types of IVF



Congenital anomalies

Singleton & multiple pregnancies

Singletons

•ART:	4 064
•Other ART:	9 589
•Controls:	1 090 154

RR = 1.43; 95% CI (1.19–1.72)

Twins and higher order multiples

•ART:	3 056
•Other ART:	2 301
•Controls:	28 008

RR = 1.26; 95% CI (1.01–1.57)

Maternal factors and the risk of birth defects after IVF / ICSI

Conception	n	Age ≥ 35 y
•IVF:	2 211	34.4%
•ICSI:	1 399	30.3%
•Controls:	301 060	12.1%



Miscarriage from amnio / CVS



Royal College of
Obstetricians &
Gynaecologists

Amnio 1%

CVS 1-2%



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNECOLOGISTS

Amnio 0.3-0.5%

CVS 0.3-0.5%



THE SOCIETY OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNAECOLOGISTS
— OF CANADA —

Amnio 0.2-1.5%

CVS 0.2-1.5%

RCOG: Amniocentesis and Chorionic Villus Sampling. Green Top Guideline No.8. London: RCOG, 2010.

ACOG: Invasive prenatal testing for aneuploidy. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 88. Obstet Gynecol 2007; 110: 1459-1467.

SOGC: Mid-trimester amniocentesis fetal loss rate. J Obstet Gynaecol Can 2007; 29: 586-595.

King's College hospital study

Singleton pregnancies with combined screening at 11-13 w

- Expectant management
- Livebirth n = 33,310; Miscarriage n = 404 (1.2%)
- Regression model to predict miscarriage

Variable	OR	95% CI
Age (per year)	0.870	0.766-0.988
Delta nuchal translucency	1.778	1.496-2.114
Ductus venosus: reversed a-wave	2.208	1.508-3.232
Log10 PAPP-A MoM	0.356	0.233-0.543

CVS n = 2,396

Miscarriage

Observed: 44 (1.8%)

Expected: 45 (95% CI 32-58)



Danish study

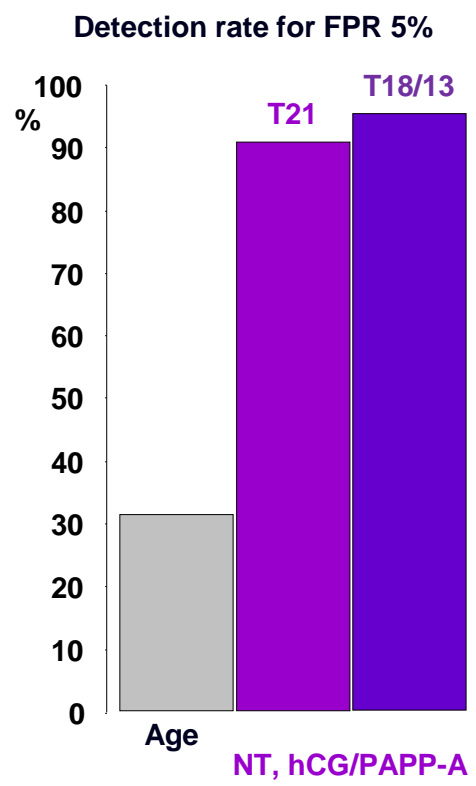
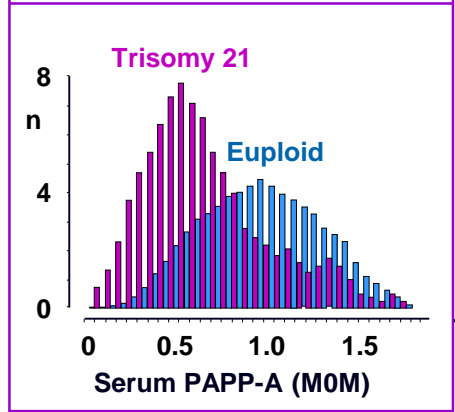
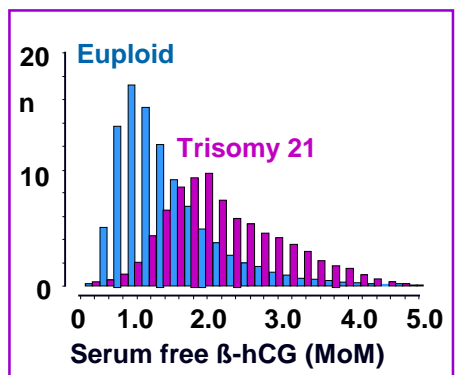
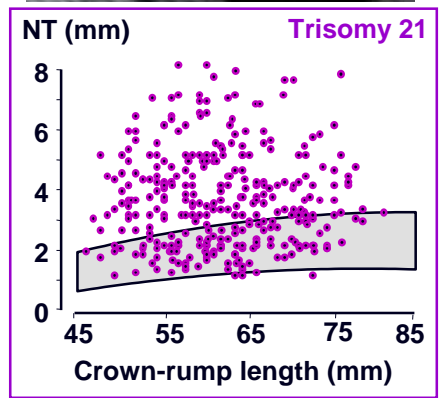
- 147,987 singleton pregnancies
- All had first trimester combined screening
- Propensity score stratification

Miscarriage risk difference:	CVS	-0.2%
	Amniocentesis	0.6%
Stillbirth risk difference:	CVS	-0.3%
	Amniocentesis	0.1%

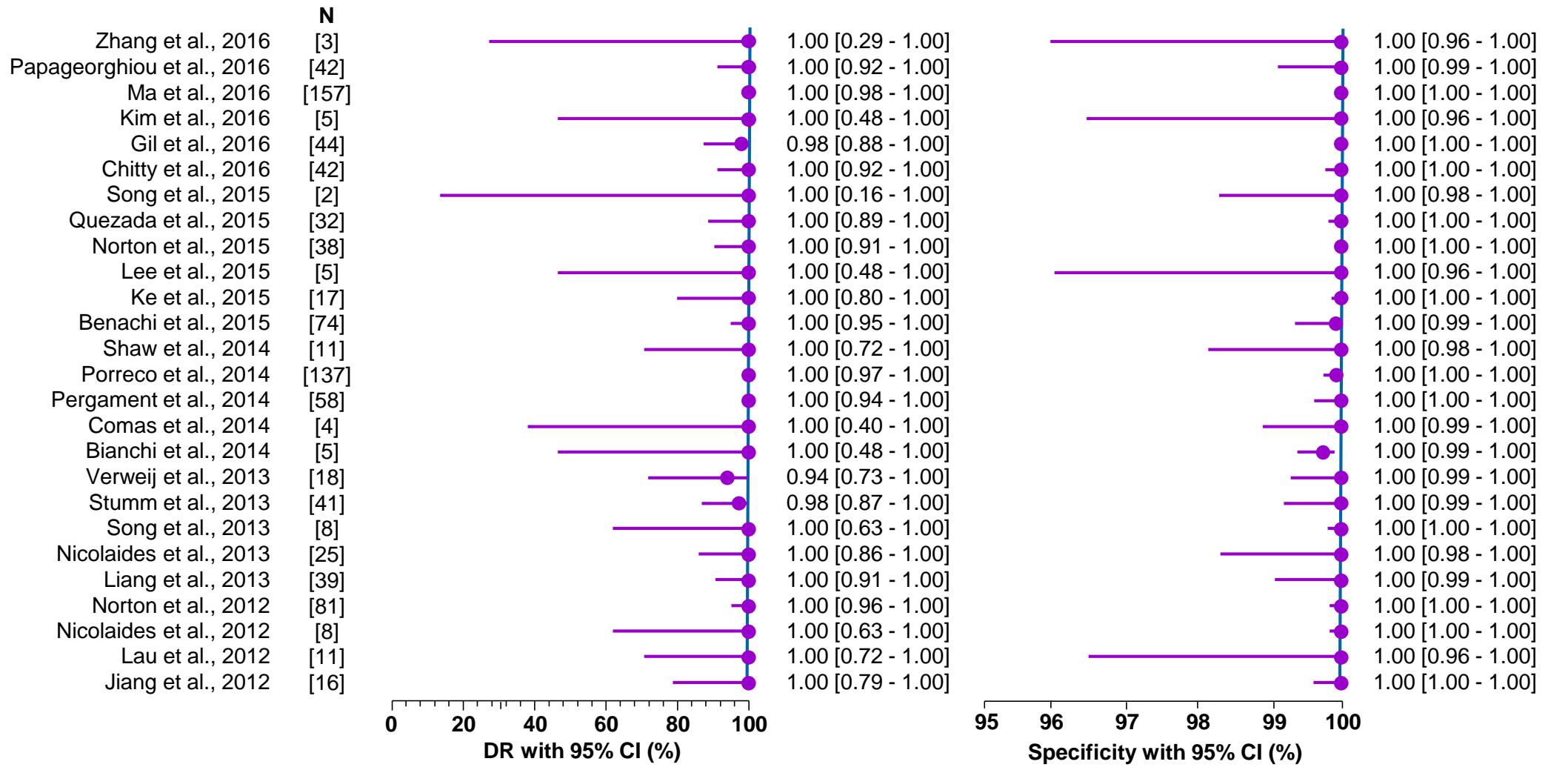


Screening for Down syndrome

1st trimester combined test



- Nicolaides KH, Azar GB, Byrne D, Mansur CA, Marks K. Nuchal translucency: ultrasound screening for chromosomal defects in the first trimester of pregnancy. *BMJ* **1992**; 304:867
- Snijders RJ, Noble P, Sebire N, Souka A, Nicolaides KH. UK multicentre project on assessment of risk of trisomy 21 by maternal age and fetal nuchal-translucency thickness at 10-14 weeks of gestation. *Lancet* **1998**; 352:343
- Spencer K, Souter V, Tul N, Snijders R, Nicolaides KH. A screening program for trisomy 21 at 10-14 weeks using fetal nuchal translucency, maternal serum free beta-human chorionic gonadotropin and pregnancy-associated plasma protein-A. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol* **1999**; 13:231.
- Kagan KO, Wright D, Valencia C, Maiz N, Nicolaides KH. Screening for trisomies 21, 18 and 13 by maternal age, fetal nuchal translucency, fetal heart rate, free β -hCG and pregnancy-associated plasma protein-A. *Hum Reprod* **2008**; 23:1968-75.

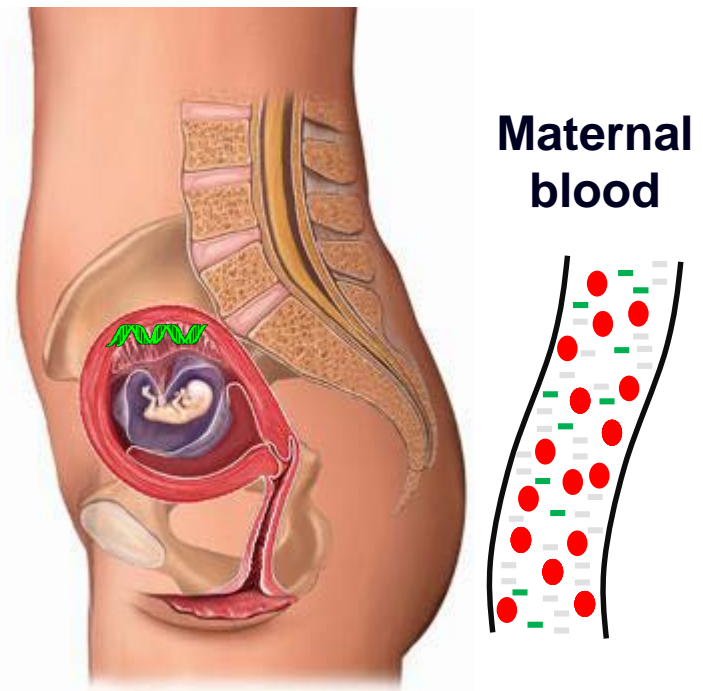


Estimated DR 99.8% (920/923: 99.7%)

Estimated FPR 0.04% (25/54,359: 0.05%)

Screening for trisomies

Cell-free DNA in maternal blood



		DR	FPR
Trisomy 21	n= 923	99.8% (99.2)	0.04% (0.09)
Trisomy 18	n= 290	97.6% (96.3)	0.05% (0.13)
Trisomy 13	n= 212	96.5% (91.0)	0.02% (0.13)

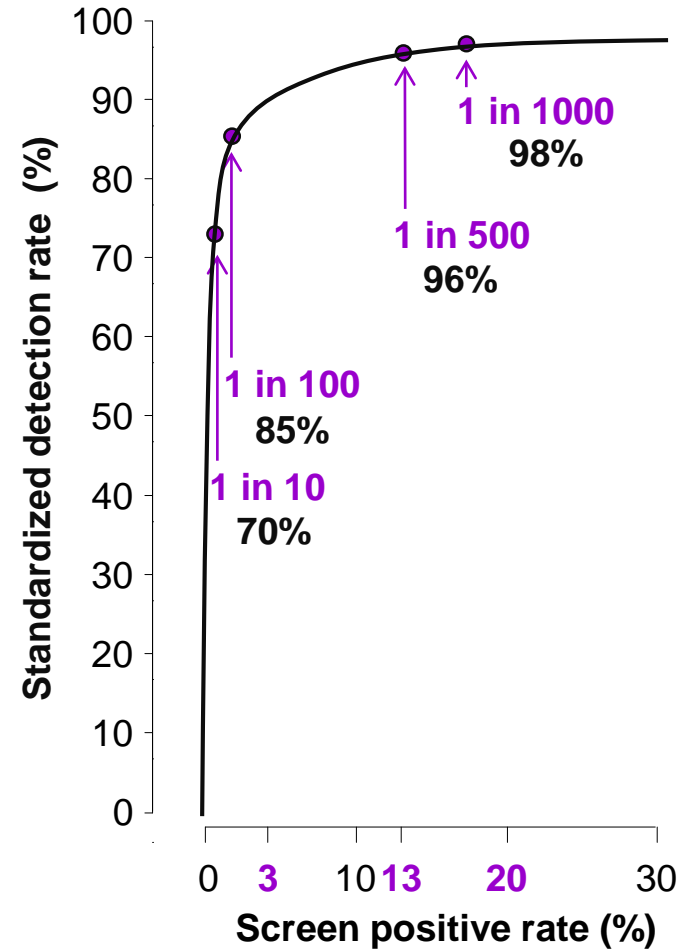
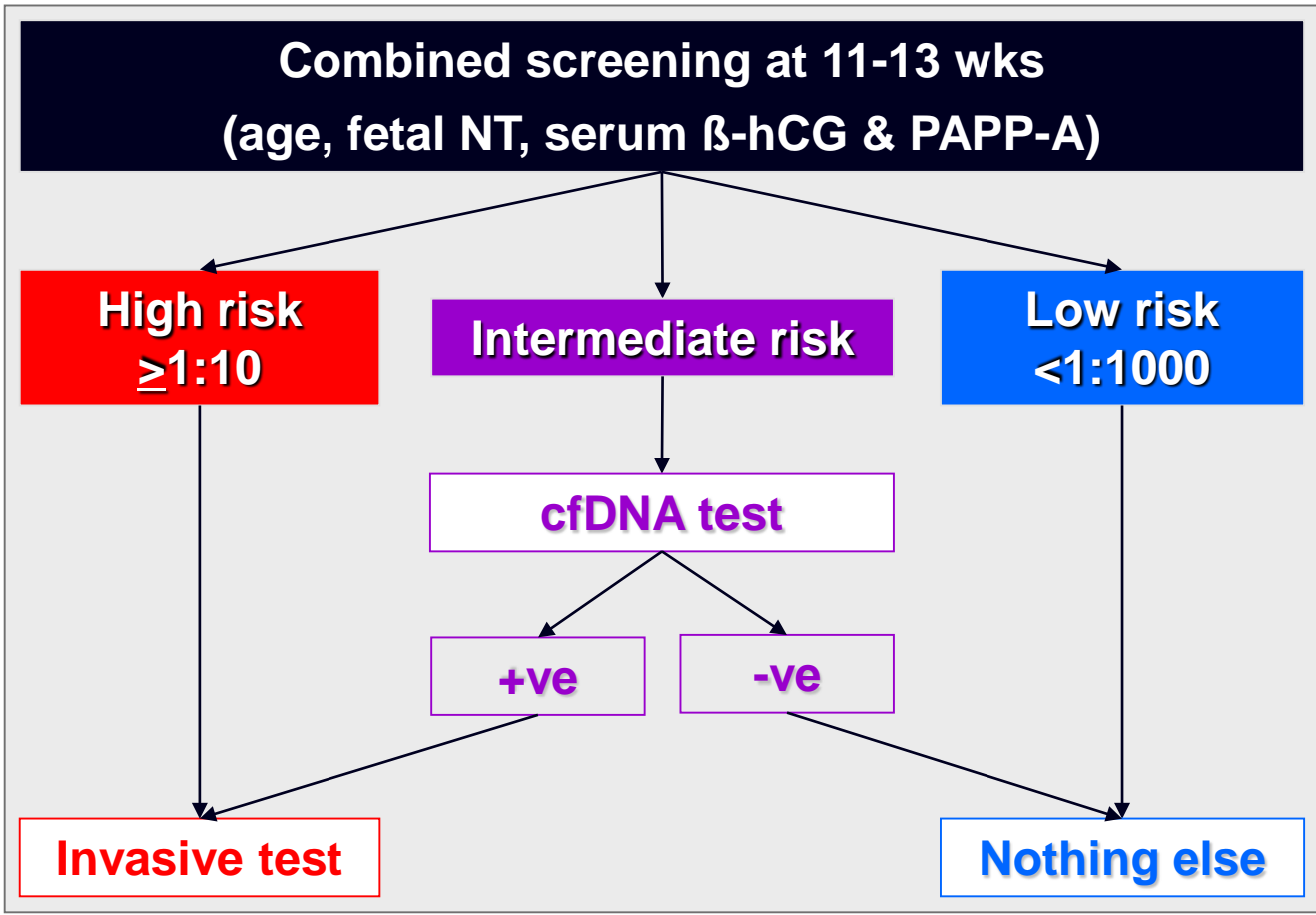
Mar Gil : Updated meta-analysis December 2016

Lo YM, Corbetta N, Chamberlain PF, Rai V, Sargent IL, Redman CW, Wainscoat JS. Presence of fetal DNA in maternal plasma and serum. Lancet 1997; 350:485-7.

Gil MM, Quezada MS, Revello R, Akolekar R, Nicolaides KH. Analysis of cell-free DNA in maternal blood in screening for fetal aneuploidies Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol 2015;45:249

Cell free DNA test

Model of clinical implementation



Singletons

- ART: 9 653
- Controls: 1 090 154

RR = 1.43; 95% CI (1.19–1.72)

Multiples

- ART: 5 357
- Controls: 28 008

RR = 1.26; 95% CI (1.01–1.57)

Increased risk of congenital defects in ART:

Most commonly affected organs:

Cardiovascular
Genitourinary
Musculoskeletal

Most common defects:

Hypospadias
Omphalocele
Neural tube defects

Major defects



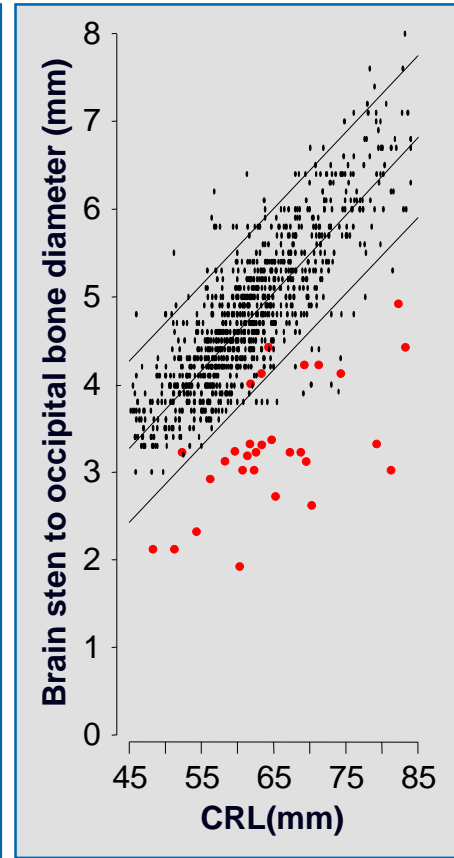
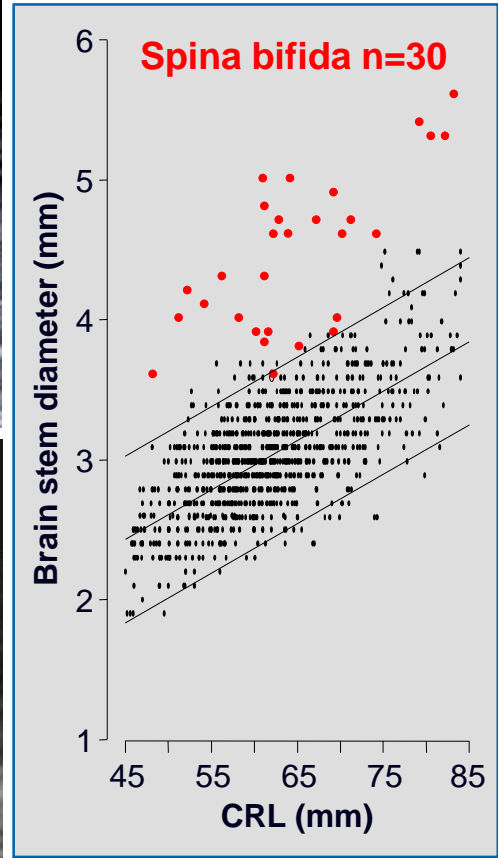
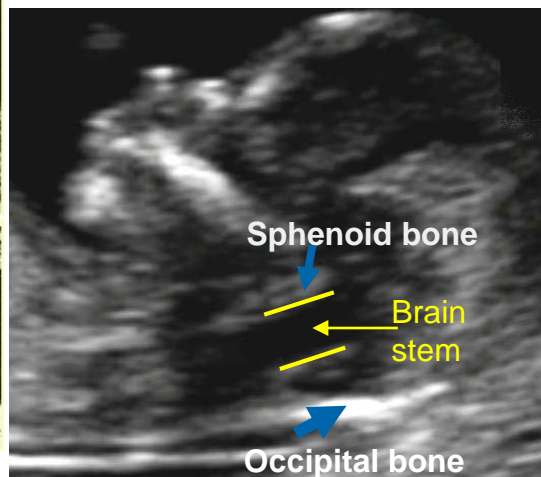
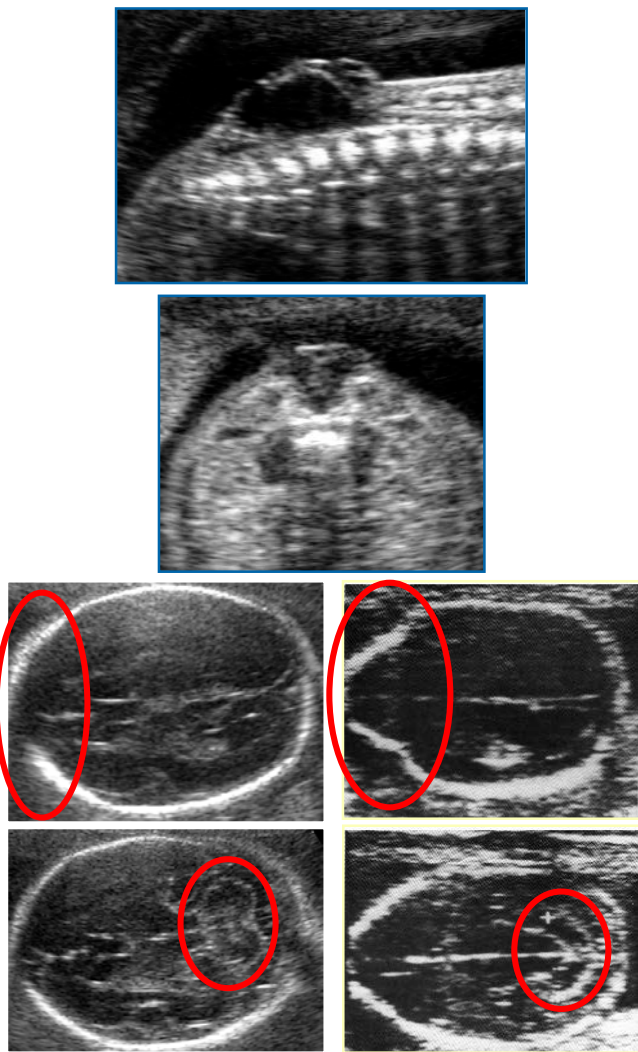
Always detected 31%

- Acrania**
- Holoprosencephaly**
- Exomphalos**
- Gastroschisis**
- Megacystis**
- Body stalk anomaly**



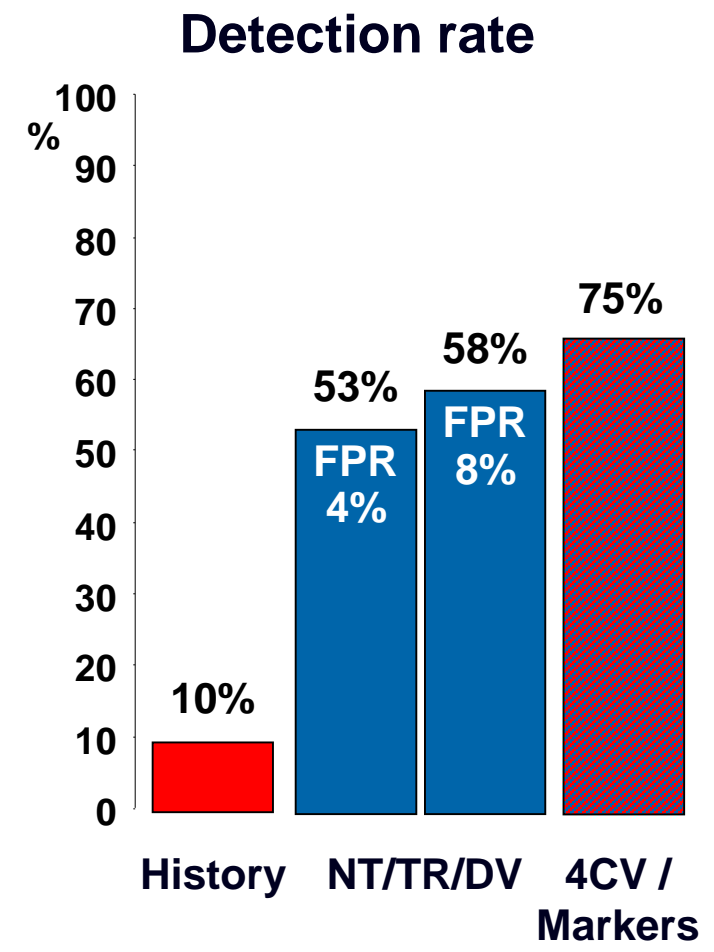
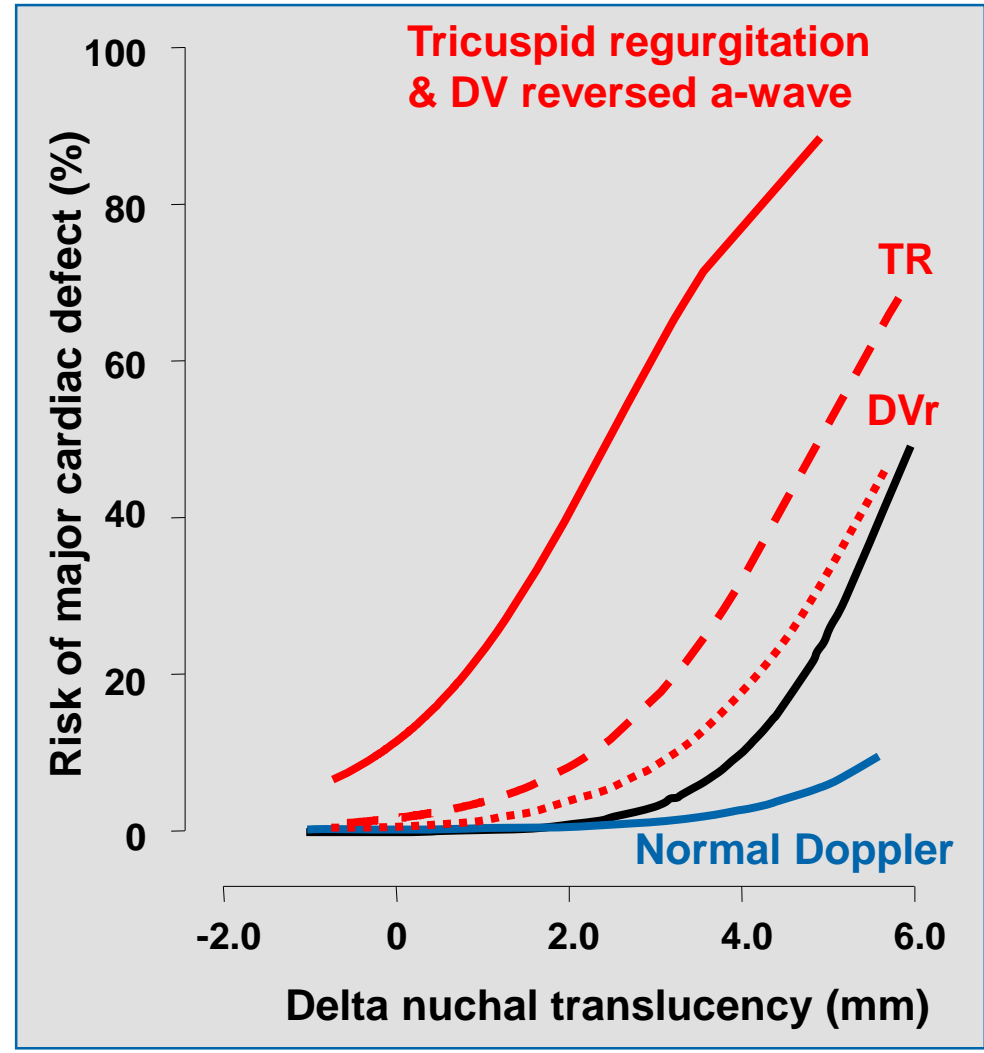
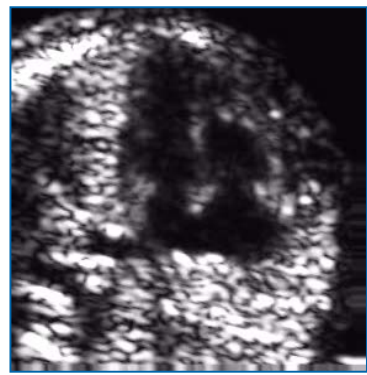
Early detection of Open spina bifida

11-13 weeks



Early detection of Major cardiac defects

11-13 weeks



Cheleman 2011; Pereira 2011; Rembouskos 2012

Discordance for fetal abnormality

Prevalence DC : MC = 4 : 1

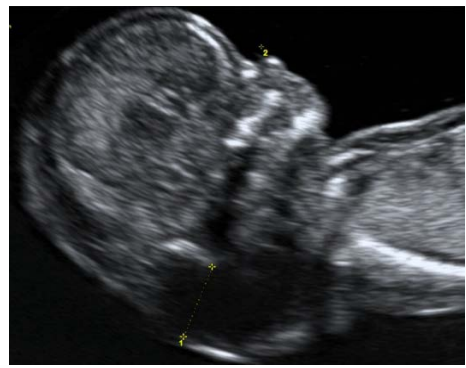
Defects in DC: 1 x singleton

Defects in MC: 4 x singleton

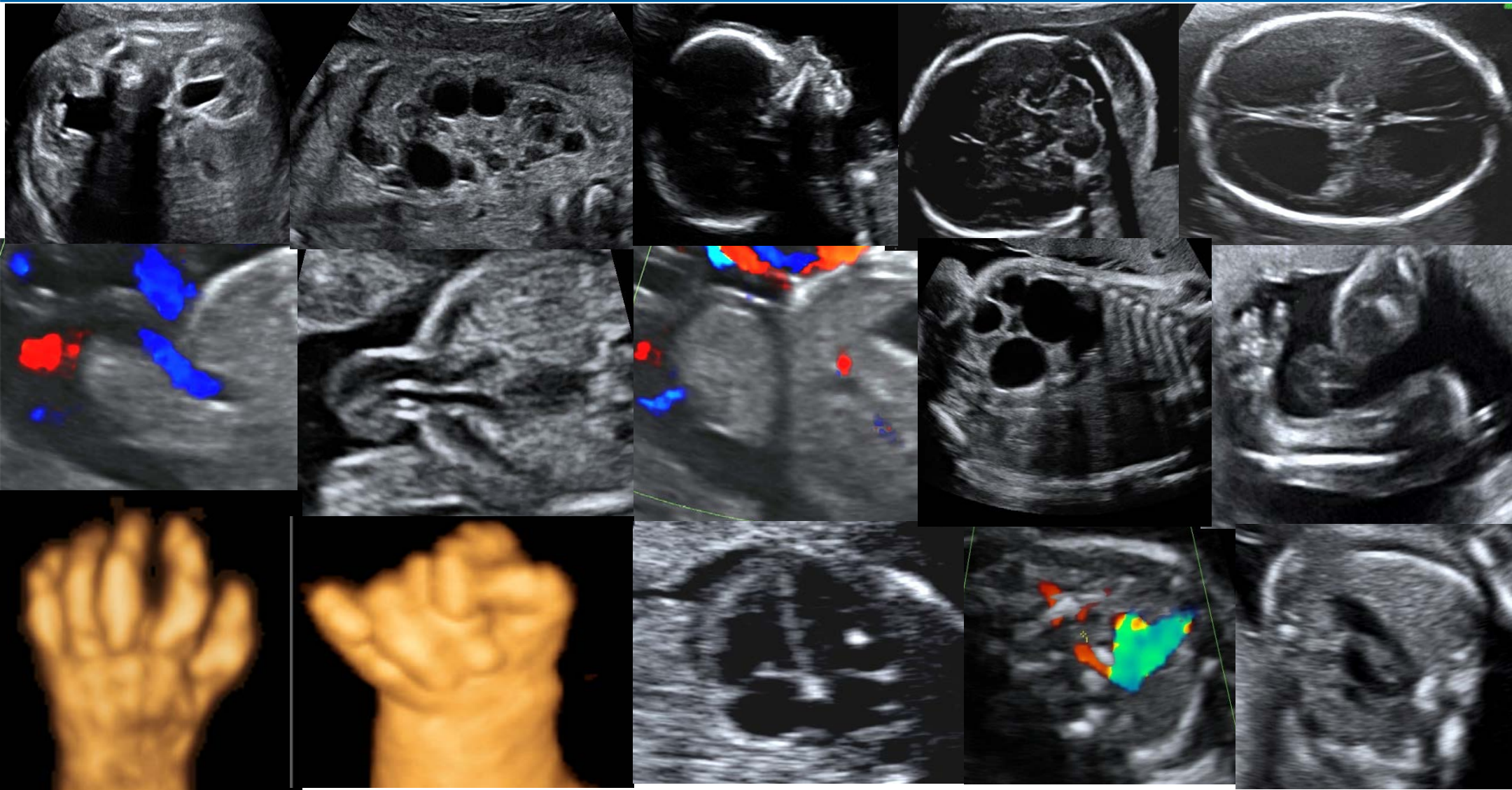
Discordance for defects: MC=DC

- Management options**
- DC: 1 euploid and 1 trisomy 21
 - DC: 1 euploid and 1 trisomy 18
 - DC: 1 euploid and 1 anencephaly

 - MC: 1 normal and 1 abnormal



Timing of selective termination





Conclusions

- 1. Increased risk of congenital defects in ART pregnancies**
- 2. Equal risk of congenital defects between all types of ART pregnancies**
- 3. Management of ART pregnancies:**
 - ↗ Counselling with specialist in Reproductive medicine**
 - ↗ Counselling with specialist in Fetal medicine**
- 4. Need for randomized studies**

Thank you