

CRL

Screening Programmes

Fetal Anomaly

Recommended criteria for measurement of fetal crown rump length (CRL) as part of combined screening for Trisomy 21 within the NHS in England

Criteria for CRL	Detail	References
CRL range in mm	42–80mm (preferred) ¹ 42–84mm (acceptable)	DH Model of Best Practice (2008) ¹
Image magnification	The magnification of the fetus is made as large as possible before the image is frozen, to clearly demonstrate the entire crown rump length	NHS FASP Condensed Education Module for Trisomy 21 resource, and the NHS FASP NT resource ²
Fetal position	A midline sagittal section of the whole fetus should be obtained, ideally with the fetus horizontal on the screen so that the line between crown or rump is at 90° to the ultrasound beam	Fetal size and dating: charts recommended for clinical obstetric practice (2009) ³
Fetal attitude	Neutral position with fluid visible between fetal chin and chest. Neither hyper-extended nor flexed	NHS FASP Condensed Education Module for Trisomy 21 resource, and the NHS FASP NT resource ²
Three measurements	The best of three measurements should be taken ³ . Record/archive the image that meets all the criteria	Fetal size and dating: charts recommended for clinical obstetric practice (2009) ³
Linear CRL measurement	Linear callipers should be used to measure the maximum un-flexed length, in which the end points of crown and rump are clearly defined	Fetal size and dating: charts recommended for clinical obstetric practice (2009) ³
Calliper placement	Intersection of callipers (+) placed on the outer margin of skin borders of the fetal crown and rump	NHS FASP Condensed Education Module for Trisomy 21 resource, and the NHS FASP NT resource ²

References

1. NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme - Screening for Down's Syndrome (2008), *UK NSC Policy Recommendations: 2007–2010 Model of Best Practice*. Pub: Department of Health
2. NHS FASP Condensed Education Module for Trisomy 21 resource, and the NHS FASP NT resource www.fetalanomaly.screening.nhs.uk
3. Loughna P, Chitty L, Evans T, Chudleigh T (2009) *Ultrasound Fetal Size and Dating: Charts Recommended for Clinical Obstetric Practice*, Volume 17:3. Pub: British Medical Ultrasound Society

