

Antenatal Screening Wales Guidance for the development of local referral arrangements for short femur <5th centile

Definition:

Short femur is described as femur length which is below the 5th centile for gestational age when measured with the shaft of the femur parallel to the transducer.

Consider the following:

If a short femur, <5th centile, is identified at the fetal anomaly scan between 18 to 20⁺⁶ weeks, the sonographer should consider the possibility of skeletal dysplasia and with this in mind assess the appearances of the long bones, the shape of the head and chest. If an abnormality is suspected, the woman should be referred to an obstetrician for further assessment.

If there is no obvious abnormality, the scan should be repeated four weeks following the first fetal anomaly scan as skeletal dysplasia often appears after 24 weeks gestation. If an abnormality is suspected, the woman should be referred to an obstetrician for further assessment. If the scan is normal and there are no features of skeletal dysplasia or growth restriction/ placental insufficiency then no further follow up is required.

Health Boards are requested to develop their local referral arrangements to include the above guidance.