

# Indications for Fetal Echocardiography — Quick Reference

## Summary Algorithm — Who Needs a Fetal Echo?

1. Any abnormal cardiac view or rhythm → Always indicated.
2. High-risk maternal/familial/genetic history → Indicated.
3. Suspicious ultrasound marker (NT, axis, effusion, extracardiac anomaly) → Indicated.
4. Moderate-risk maternal factor (diabetes, IVF, IUGR) → Recommended.
5. Low-risk / uncertain → Consult fetal cardiology or repeat screening.
6. Parental request for reassurance → Consider after counselling.

Category	Indications / Findings / Notes
Maternal Indications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pre-Gestational Diabetes</li> <li>2. Anti-Ro/La Antibodies</li> <li>3. Maternal CHD</li> <li>4. Teratogens</li> <li>5. IVF/ICSI</li> <li>6. Infections</li> </ol>
Fetal Ultrasound Findings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abnormal 4-Chamber/Outflow View</li> <li>2. Increased NT (&gt;3.5mm)</li> <li>3. Arrhythmia</li> <li>4. Hydrops</li> <li>5. Situs Anomalies</li> <li>6. MC Twins/TTTS</li> <li>7. IUGR With Doppler Changes</li> </ol>
Genetic / Family Indications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Previous Child With CHD</li> <li>2. Parental CHD</li> <li>3. Aneuploidy (T21/18/13), 22q11 Deletion</li> <li>4. Pathogenic Single-Gene Variants</li> <li>5. Abnormal Cf-DNA Findings</li> </ol>
Extracardiac Indications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CNS</li> <li>2. Facial Cleft</li> <li>3. Omphalocele</li> <li>4. CDH</li> <li>5. Renal, Skeletal</li> <li>6. CPAM</li> <li>7. Placental Tumor</li> <li>8. Polyhydramnios</li> <li>9. Hydrops</li> </ol>
Functional Indications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cardiac Output And Stroke Volume</li> <li>2. MPI</li> <li>3. Ventricular Systolic/Diastolic Function</li> <li>4. AV Regurgitation</li> <li>5. DV/IVC/Umbilical/MCA Dopplers</li> <li>6. Monitor For Hydrops</li> </ol>

## Timing and Clinical Notes

- Optimal timing: 18–22 weeks.
- Early targeted scan: 14–16 weeks for high-risk cases; repeat if image quality inadequate.
- >50% of CHD occur without known risk factors — maintain high-quality routine cardiac screening.
- Parental request for reassurance is valid after counselling.

Visit [www.fetal-echo.org](http://www.fetal-echo.org) for a full professional article and detailed tables.

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