

## 245

### Estimated fetal weight versus birthweight discrepancy in large babies suggests slowing of growth before birth

**Oliver Hugh, Jason Gardosi**

**Perinatal Institute, Birmingham, United Kingdom**

**Objectives:** Ultrasound-estimated fetal weight (EFW) often overestimates the weight centile of the baby at birth, resulting in high rates of false positive assessments of large-for-gestational-age (LGA) fetuses.<sup>1</sup> We investigated whether the discrepancy could also be due to reduced growth velocity before birth.

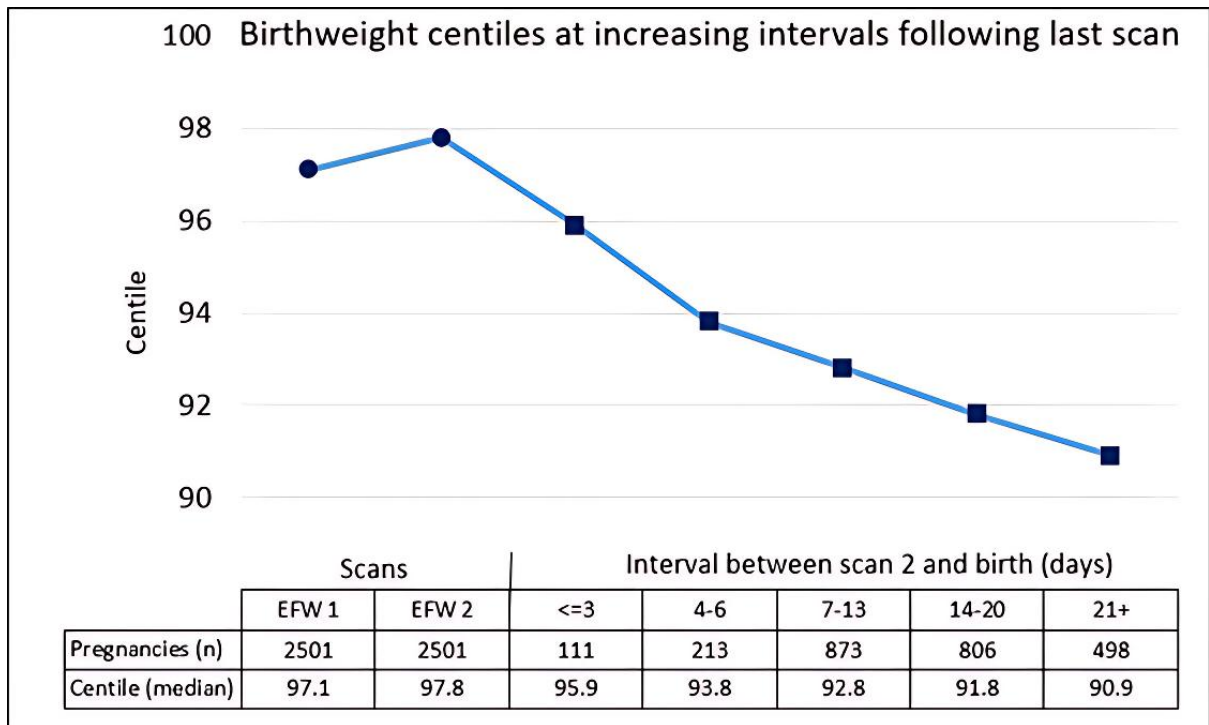
**Methods:** We examined a routinely recorded database of 25,230 pregnancies that had two or more third-trimester scans for various indications. We selected a cohort of all cases where the last two EFWs were above the ninetieth customised centile ( $n = 2,501$ ). We then compared this with the centile at birth, at the following intervals from last scan: <3, 4–6, 7–13, 14–20 and >21 days.

**Results:** The average gestational age (weeks + days) was 33+5 and 36+4 at the last two scans, and 38+6 at birth (interval 16 days from last scan). The average EFW centiles at the two scans were 97.1 and 97.8, respectively. The average centile at birth was 91.8, which included 46% of cases that were not LGA (<90th centile). Births within three days of the last scan showed a systematic error of 1.9 centile only. The centile drop at birth increased with the interval between last scan and birth ( $p < 0.01$ , Spearman Rank test) (see Figure). The pattern was similar for spontaneous-onset labours.

**Conclusions:** Nearly half of fetuses found to be LGA at last scan are not >90th centile at birth. The reduction of size appears to be due to a gradual slowing of growth at term.

#### Reference:

1. Ewington L, Hugh O, Butler E, et al. Accuracy of antenatal ultrasound in predicting large for gestational age babies. Submitted abstract, BMFMS 2024.



**FIGURE 1**