

Indications for placental examination

Maternal indications include:

- Systemic disorders such as an active autoimmune disease, uncontrolled diabetes, or other significant maternal disease that has affected the pregnancy
- Moderate or severe pre-eclampsia
- Intrapartum fever or infection
- Suspected chorioamnionitis
- Unexplained bleeding in the third trimester
- Excessive bleeding (more than 500ml)
- Placental abruption
- Severe maternal trauma
- Amniotic Fluid Index (AFI) abnormalities.

Fetal and neonatal indications include:

- Admission to neonatal intensive care
- Failure to respond to resuscitation
- Spontaneous or iatrogenic preterm birth
- Fetal compromise including growth restriction
- Severe cardiorespiratory depression at birth
- Signs consistent with congenital infection
- Severe growth restriction
- Diagnosis of hydrops fetalis
- Suspected severe anaemia
- Suspected or known major congenital abnormalities
- Death.

Placental indications include:

- Physical abnormality
- Abnormal placental size or weight for gestational age (small or large)
- Suspected vasa praevia
- Umbilical cord lesions
- Abnormal cord length.