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Title: Ultrasound And Endocrinological Markers Of First Trimester
Placentation And Subsequent Fetal Size

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Keywords: Placental volume; birth weight; placental hormones; large for
gestational age; small for gestational age

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Abstract: Introduction: To study the relationship between 2-dimensional
placental ultrasound measurements and maternal serum (MS) levels of
biomarkers of placentation and in pregnancies presenting with an isolated
abnormally high or low birthweight at term, without evidence of placental
insufficiency.

Method: We performed a population based cohort study of 306 pregnancies
delivered at term including 30 presenting with large-for-gestational age
(LGA, birthweight > 90th centile) and 17 small-for-gestational age (SGA;
birthweight < 10th centile). Antenatal measurements included placental
thickness and 2D-volume and MS levels of pregnancy-associated plasma
protein A (PAPP-A) and free-beta human chorionic gonadotrophin (fβhCG) at
11 - 13+6 weeks of gestation and mid-trimester MS α-fetoprotein (AFP),
unconjugated estriol (uE3) and inhibin A levels.

Results: In the subgroup with a normal birthweight (10th-90th centile),
there was a significant positive correlation between birthweight and the
basal plate surface area ($p < 0.001$) and 2D placental volume ($p < 0.01$). In
the LGA subgroup, MS PAPP-A was significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher than in
normal controls and there was a significant ($p < 0.01$) positive correlation
with birthweight. There was no significant difference for any of the
ultrasound and biomarkers parameters between SGA and the normally grown
controls.

Discussion: In uncomplicated singleton pregnancies with a normal
birthweight, 2D measurements of placentation are related with fetal size
but are not related to subsequent excessive or slow fetal growth. LGA at
birth is associated with increased MS PAPP-A at 11-14 weeks of gestation
supporting the association between PAPP-A synthesis and early placental
growth and development.

Dear Graham

As requested, I have added in the Supplementary Figures 1 and 2 (Scatter plot illustrating the relationship between first trimester placental surface area or 2D volume and birthweight for the whole cohort), Eric has added the statistical data for these results into the results section on page 10. He also corrected 2 typos and added 2 decimals in all the F numbers for consistency.

Yours sincerely
Anna David

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors state that no conflict of interest exists.

Ultrasound And Endocrinological Markers Of First Trimester Placentation And Subsequent Fetal Size

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ABSTRACT (243 words)

Introduction: To study the relationship between 2-dimensional placental ultrasound measurements and maternal serum (MS) levels of biomarkers of placentation and in pregnancies presenting with an isolated abnormally high or low birthweight at term, without evidence of placental insufficiency.

Method: We performed a population based cohort study of 306 pregnancies delivered at term including 30 presenting with large-for-gestational age (LGA, birthweight > 90th centile) and 17 small-for-gestational age (SGA; birthweight < 10th centile). Antenatal measurements included placental thickness and 2D-volume and MS levels of pregnancy-associated plasma protein A (PAPP-A) and free-beta human chorionic gonadotrophin (fβhCG) at 11 - 13⁺⁶ weeks of gestation and mid-trimester MS α-fetoprotein (AFP), unconjugated estriol (uE3) and inhibin A levels.

Results: In the subgroup with a normal birthweight (10th-90th centile), there was a significant positive correlation between birthweight and the basal plate surface area ($p < 0.001$) and 2D placental volume ($p < 0.01$). In the LGA subgroup, MS PAPP-A was significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher than in normal controls and there was a significant ($p < 0.01$) positive correlation with birthweight. There was no significant difference for any of the ultrasound and biomarkers parameters between SGA and the normally grown controls.

Discussion: In uncomplicated singleton pregnancies with a normal birthweight, 2D measurements of placentation are related with fetal size but are not related to subsequent excessive or slow fetal growth. LGA at birth is

associated with increased MS PAPP-A at 11-14 weeks of gestation supporting the association between PAPP-A synthesis and early placental growth and development.

Keywords: Placental volume, birth weight, placental hormones, large for gestational age, small for gestational age

Highlights

- ~~• In a population based cohort study of 306 uncomplicated singleton pregnancies delivered at term, 2D placental measurements correlate with fetal size in the total study group and To study the relationship between 2D placental measurements, maternal placental biomarkers and fetal growth complications~~
- ~~• in uncomplicated singleton pregnancies with a normal birthweight 2D placental measurements correlate with fetal size~~
- Placental basal plate surface area and 2D placental volume do not predict large or small fetal size and these measurements cannot be used to predict birthweight in individual cases..
- ~~• Large (LGA) and small for gestational age (SGA) at birth are not associated with 2D ultrasound measurements of the placenta~~
- ~~• LGA but not SGA is associated with raised first trimester maternal serum pregnancy-associated plasma proteinFirst trimester maternal serum pregnancy-associated plasma protein concentration is higher in LGA pregnancies than compared with normal and AGA pregnancies.~~

1 **Ultrasound And Endocrinological Markers Of**
2 **First Trimester Placentation And Subsequent**
3 **Fetal Size**

4

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29 **Introduction:** To study the relationship between 2-dimensional placental
30 ultrasound measurements and maternal serum (MS) levels of biomarkers of
31 placentation and in pregnancies presenting with an isolated abnormally high
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45 controls and there was a significant ($p < 0.01$) positive correlation with
46 birthweight. There was no significant difference for any of the ultrasound and
47 biomarkers parameters between SGA and the normally grown controls.

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49 birthweight, 2D measurements of placentation are related with fetal size but
50 are not related to subsequent excessive or slow fetal growth. LGA at birth is

51 associated with increased MS PAPP-A at 11-14 weeks of gestation
52 supporting the association between PAPP-A synthesis and early placental
53 growth and development.

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55 gestational age, small for gestational age

56

57 **1. Introduction**

58 Major changes take place in the uterine environment between the first
59 trimester and the rest of pregnancy [1]. These changes are characterised by
60 the establishment of the intervillous circulation, a switch from histiotrophic to
61 haemotrophic fetal nutrition and the remodelling of the primitive placenta [2].
62 In early pregnancy, the oxygen concentration within the chorionic sac is
63 maintained at a low value to protect the primitive placenta and the developing
64 fetus from the teratogenic effect of oxygen free radicals [1,2]. The onset of the
65 maternal arterial circulations at the end of the first trimester leads to a three-
66 fold rise in the intraplacental oxygen concentration [1,3]. The haemodynamics
67 of the utero-placental circulation and distribution of oxygen around and inside
68 the placenta play an important role in shaping the topography of the villous
69 tree of the definitive placenta and the formation of the free placental
70 membranes [1-3].

71 Fetal size is dependent on nutrient availability, which in turn is related
72 to villous development and the capacity of the villous trophoblast to transport
73 these nutrients [4]. Sufficient dilation of the utero-placental circulation together
74 with rapid villous angiogenesis are the key factors necessary for adequate
75 placental development and function, and subsequent fetal growth. Placental
76 and fetal development is related and placental growth kinetics are important
77 features predicting post-natal health and in particular cardiovascular
78 adaptations in childhood, even when fetal size is in the normal range [5]. At
79 birth, there is a correlation between fetal and placental weight and the ratio of
80 these weights i.e. the feto-placental weight ratio (FPR) gives retrospectively

81 an indication of the appropriateness of fetal growth during pregnancy and
82 estimates the potential risks for chronic diseases in later life [6].

83 The placenta actively produces a large number of hormones that serve
84 to regulate and balance maternal and fetal physiology and in particular fetal
85 growth via the production and metabolism of growth-regulating hormones [7].
86 The expression of numerous signaling molecules is altered in the placentas
87 from pregnancies affected by the fetal growth complications of fetal growth
88 restriction and macrosomia. Many maternal serum (MS) biomarkers have
89 been proposed for the detection of abnormal fetal growth but when used
90 alone in the first trimester they have a limited role as screening tests. For
91 example, pregnancy-associated plasma protein-A (PAPP-A) during the first
92 trimester cannot be used alone as a marker of excessive fetal growth, large
93 [8] or of small-for-gestational age (SGA) [9,11]. Similarly new biomarkers such
94 as adiponectin, a hormone that regulates glucose levels and fatty acid
95 oxidation, have been recently tested in the first trimester to predict fetal size
96 later in pregnancy with variable results [12,13].

97 For decades, ultrasound remains the best method for the screening
98 diagnosis, characterization and follow-up of abnormal fetal growth. The
99 advent of Doppler ultrasound has enabled the study of the development of the
100 uterine and umbilical circulations *in utero* from early in normal pregnancy [14].
101 Further studies have shown an association between uterine circulation,
102 abnormal placental features including size, abnormal level of biomarkers in
103 MS and abnormal fetal growth [15,16]. More recently 3-dimensional (3D)
104 ultrasound has enabled the study of placental volume *in utero* throughout
105 pregnancy. These studies have shown an association between placental

106 volume at 11-13 weeks and birth weight in pregnancies with a normal and
107 complicated outcome [17-22].

108 The combination of the assessment of placental size and shape with
109 3D ultrasound and MS biomarkers can serve as the foundation upon which to
110 build a multivariate model for the early prediction of abnormal fetal size. The
111 broad variability in placental volume 3D measurements and current time-
112 consuming approach compared to 2D ultrasound has made its clinical use
113 difficult [23]. In this study, we investigated the relationship between first
114 trimester (11 - 13⁺⁶ weeks of gestation) 2D ultrasound measurements of
115 placentation and MS levels of commonly measured placental proteins PAPP-
116 A and free-beta human chorionic gonadotrophin (fβhCG), and mid-trimester
117 (15-22⁺⁰ weeks of gestation) inhibin and subsequent fetal size.

118

119 **2. Patients and methods**

120 A group of 476 women booked for antenatal care at University College
121 London Hospital (UCLH) were recruited prospectively over a 40-month period.
122 All pregnant women at UCLH are offered a screening test for Trisomy 21
123 which combines nuchal translucency (NT) measurement and MS levels of
124 PAPP-A and fβhCG at 11–13⁺⁶ weeks (combined test) and/or of AFP, uE3
125 and inhibin-A at 15–22⁺⁰ weeks (integrated test). All women were recruited at
126 the time of the NT ultrasound examination between 11⁺⁰ and 13⁺⁶ weeks of
127 gestation (77-97 gestational days) as determined either by menstrual age, or

128 when there was a discrepancy of more than 5 days by the ultrasound
129 measurement of the fetal crown-rump length (CRL).

130 Demographic data including maternal age, ethnicity, parity, cigarette
131 smoke exposure, age and body mass index (BMI) were collected from
132 questionnaires completed at the time of the first appointment. All women
133 underwent routine screening for gestational diabetes with a random glucose
134 at booking and at 28 weeks of gestation. In addition women with specific risk
135 factors (previous LGA, family history of diabetes) were offered a formal 2 hour
136 glucose tolerance test at 28 weeks. Pregnancy outcome information was
137 collected from the medical case notes and hospital electronic patient records.
138 The birthweight percentile was calculated using the customized gestational
139 age related optimal growth chart (GROW) (www.gestation.net), which takes
140 into account ethnicity, maternal height, weight, age and fetal birthweight and
141 gender.

142 Women diagnosed with a first trimester miscarriage, fetal abnormality,
143 medical condition, multiple pregnancy and abnormal pregnancy outcome
144 including, late miscarriage, intrauterine death, stillbirth, preterm (<37 weeks of
145 gestation) or post-term delivery ($\geq 41+6$ weeks of gestation), smokers or lost to
146 follow-up were excluded from the analysis. Placental pathology results were
147 available for cases of SGA and IUGR identified at birth.

148 **2.1 Ultrasound examination**

149 All examinations were performed using a 3.5-5 MHz ultrasound probe
150 (Voluson 730 and E8 Expert, GE, USA). In all cases, the fetal NT, CRL and
151 basic anatomy were obtained. The placental basal plate dimensions and

152 thickness were measured by viewing the whole placenta as previously
153 described [25,26]. Three measurements of each parameter were taken and
154 they were subsequently averaged for analysis. In brief the longest sagittal and
155 transverse diameters of the placental basal plate were measured at the level
156 of the utero-placental interface and the placental thickness was measured
157 underneath the cord insertion. The basal plate surface area of the placenta
158 was estimated using the following formula: *Sagittal length x transverse length*
159 *x $\pi/4$* . The placental volume was calculated as being the equation for half the
160 volume of an ellipsoid: *$\frac{1}{2}$ (sagittal length x transverse length x thickness x*
161 *$4/3\pi$)*, as previously described [24]. The placental measurements were
162 entered into the prospective study database at the time of the ultrasound
163 scan. Four sonographers were trained by the study authors prior to the study
164 commencement so as to perform the placental ultrasound measurements in a
165 reproducible and systematic way.

166 **2.2 Bioassays**

167 MS PAPP-A and f β hCG levels were measured using the AutoDELFIA PAPP-
168 A, time-resolved fluoro-immunoassay (PerkinElmer, Turku, Finland). Inhibin A
169 MS levels were measured using a commercial ELISA. The measured proteins
170 were converted to multiple of the median (MoM) for a pregnancy of the same
171 gestational age and adjusted for maternal age and ethnicity.

172 **2.3 Study group and statistical analysis**

173 The study group included 306 non-smoking women with a spontaneous
174 singleton pregnancy delivering after an uncomplicated pregnancy between
175 37⁺¹ weeks (259 days of pregnancy) and 41⁺⁶ weeks (286 days of pregnancy).

176 The study group was divided into 3 subgroups according to the neonatal
177 weight percentile at birth adjusted for neonatal gender [24]. Cases in the
178 large-for-gestational age (LGA, birth weight > 90th centile) and SGA (birth
179 weight <10th centile with no evidence of fetal growth restriction, as defined as
180 abnormal umbilical artery and uterine artery Doppler or abnormal
181 cerebroplacental ratio) subgroup were individually matched for maternal BMI,
182 parity and for the CRL with three cases from the normal (10-90th centile)
183 subgroup. The study was approved by the Joint UCL/UCLH Committees on
184 the Ethics of Human Research (Reference Number: 05/Q0505/82). All women
185 received information about the study and written consent was obtained prior
186 to the ultrasound examination.

187 The data were analyzed using the StatGraphic data analysis and
188 statistical software package (Station, TX). Standard Kurtosis analysis
189 indicated that some values were not normally distributed and are therefore
190 presented as median and interquartile range (IQR). The median values of the
191 different variable investigated in the macrosomic and SGA subgroups and
192 controls were compared using a Mann-Whitney (Wilcoxon) W test. Individual
193 correlations between the different ultrasound, endocrinologic and clinical
194 variables were calculated by the least square method and their slopes tested
195 for significance by the *F* ratio test. A *p* value of <0.05 was considered
196 significant.

197 **3. Results**

198 There were 259 (84.6%) pregnancies with a birthweight between 10th and 90th
199 centile (normal), 30 (9.8%) with a birthweight >90th centile (LGA) and 17
200 (5.6%) with a birthweight below the 10th centile (SGA).

201 The regression analysis between birthweight and the ultrasound and
202 endocrinologic parameters in the entire study group indicated a significant
203 positive correlation with placental basal surface area (F= 11.03; r=0.41;
204 P<0.005) and 2D volume (F= 7.60; r=0.29, p<0.01), (Supplementary Figures 1
205 and 2) and MS PAPP-A concentration (F= 5.10; r=0.14, p<0.05), but no such
206 relationship existed for MS fβhCG.

207 **3.1 Normal birth weight**

208 At the time of the ultrasound examination, the median CRL was 62.3 mm (IQR
209 56.1;70). Using the NIH BMI calculator ([www.nhlbi.nih.gov/ guidelines/obesity/
210 BMI/ bmicalc.htm](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/BMI/bmicalc.htm)), 12 women were classified at the antenatal booking
211 appointment (8-10 weeks of gestation) as underweight (BMI < 18.5), 181 as
212 normal weight (BMI 18.5-24.9), 52 as overweight (BMI 25-29.9 and 14 as
213 obese (≥ 30)).

214 Table 1 displays and compares the clinical, ultrasound and
215 endocrinological data of women with a BMI < 25 with those with a BMI ≥ 25 .
216 The MS level of fβhCG at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks was significantly (p<0.05) higher in
217 women with a BMI ≥ 25 . There was no significant difference for the other
218 parameters between the two subgroups.

219 There was a significant positive correlation between the basal plate
220 surface area (F= 10.30; r=0.20, p<0.001) and placental volume (F= 7.60;
221 r=0.17, p< 0.01) at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks and subsequent fetal size. There was no
222 significant correlation between MS fβhCG or PAPP-A at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks and
223 mid-trimester AFP, uE3 and inhibin MS levels and fetal size.

224 3.2 LGA

225 The median birthweight was 4128g in the LGA subgroup (IQR 4000;4350)
226 compared to 3289 g in the AGA subgroup (IQR 3121;3487, $p<0.001$). The
227 concentration of MS PAPP-A at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks was significantly ($p<0.05$)
228 higher in the serum of the women delivering an LGA neonate than in controls
229 with a normal birthweight at term (Table 2). There was no significant
230 difference for the ultrasound parameters in this subgroup. There was a
231 significant positive correlation ($F= 8.03$; $r=0.20$, $p<0.01$) between MS PAPP-A
232 concentration and increased birthweight at term (Figure 1), but no such
233 relationship existed for MS f β hCG AFP, uE3 and inhibin.

234 3.4 SGA

235 The median birthweight was 2850g in the SGA subgroup (IQR 2800;2922)
236 compared to 3462 g in the AGA control subgroup (IQR 3206;3632, $p<0.001$).
237 There was no significant difference for the ultrasound and endocrinologic
238 parameters between SGA and control pregnancies (Table 3). There was no
239 significant correlation between MS-hormonal levels at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks and mid-
240 trimester and SGA.

241

242 **4. Discussion**

243 Our results indicate a relationship between 2D measurements of the
244 placentation area and volume, MS PAPP-A at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks of gestation and
245 birthweight in uncomplicated singleton pregnancies that deliver at term. In
246 otherwise uncomplicated pregnancies, presenting with LGA or SGA at term,
247 2D first-trimester ultrasound measurements of placentation are not related to
248 abnormal fetal size and only MS PAPP-A are related to subsequent excessive
249 fetal size.

250 There are well-documented associations between the levels of first and
251 second trimester MS biomarkers and abnormal placental development in
252 pregnancies subsequently complicated by pre-eclampsia and intrauterine
253 growth restriction (IUGR). A longitudinal study has shown that in cases of
254 IUGR, with or without accompanying pre-eclampsia, the placenta is already
255 smaller at 12-18 weeks of gestation on ultrasound than in healthy controls
256 [26]. In the most severe cases of deficient arterial conversion the intervillous
257 circulation is abnormal from the beginning of the second trimester, resulting in
258 pronounced ultrasonographic changes in placental texture [14,27,28], that are
259 associated with IUGR, pre-eclampsia and high MS alpha-fetoprotein levels at
260 18-28 weeks [14]. In these pregnancies, there is a narrow implantation basis
261 or basal plate diameter, increased thickness and patchy decrease in placental
262 echogenicity secondary to the fetal plate being pushed up by jet-like blood
263 streams from the spiral arteries [14]. We have previously shown that in
264 pregnancies subsequently complicated by pre-eclampsia, the levels of MS
265 PAPP-A are lower at the end of the first trimester and the basal plate surface
266 area is smaller [24] reflecting indirectly the development of the definitive

267 placenta [24,25]. These findings support the concept that placental-related
268 complications of the second-half of gestation have their pathophysiological
269 origin in abnormal placentation and utero-placental development during the
270 first trimester of pregnancy [3].

271 In the present study, we have excluded pregnancies with an existing or
272 subsequent medical complications such as pre-eclampsia or gestational
273 diabetes and those that delivered pre or post-term. We observed that in the
274 subgroup presenting with a normal birthweight at term, there was a significant
275 positive correlation between birthweight and the basal plate surface area
276 ($p < 0.001$) and PV ($p < 0.01$). In this subgroup, we also found that the MS level
277 of β hCG at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks was significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) in women with a
278 BMI ≥ 25 than in women with a BMI < 25 . First-trimester 3D placental volume
279 is closely associated with fetal and placental size [18] and hCG synthesis is
280 related to trophoblast proliferation and promotes development and growth of
281 the spiral arteries [29]. These findings highlight the pivotal interaction between
282 normal placentation, placental biosynthesis functions and normal fetal size,
283 and confirms that maternal BMI is a confounding factor that needs to be
284 adjusted for the first-trimester biochemical screening of trisomy 21.

285 In the LGA subgroup, we found that the MS PAPP-A at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks
286 of gestation was significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) than in normal controls and was
287 positively correlated with birthweight at term. PAPP-A is mainly produced by
288 the villous trophoblast and during pregnancy its synthesis is up-regulated by
289 progesterone, which promotes the adhesion and proliferation potential of
290 trophoblastic cells [30]. It is also a key regulator of insulin-like growth factor
291 bioavailability essential for normal fetal development. This can explain why at

292 11-13⁶ weeks of gestation, low MS levels of PAPP-A have been associated
293 with a higher risk of pre-eclampsia and poor fetal growth during the second
294 half of pregnancy [8-11,25,31]. Conversely, high MS PAPP-A levels as in the
295 present study have been associated with increased fetal size [21,32].
296 However, the sensitivity of MS PAPP-A at 11-13⁶ weeks of gestation is too
297 low to be solely used as a screening method for the prediction of abnormal
298 birth weight and perinatal complications [8,9,11].

299 We found no difference in the ultrasound and biomarker parameters in
300 the present study between SGA and normal birthweight controls. It is possible
301 that our small sample size in the SGA group could explain the lack of
302 relationship between the parameters and fetal size in the SGA group. The
303 conflicting results from studies using first and second trimester 3D placental
304 volume measurements to predict fetal size in the third trimester [18,33] are
305 probably because of the difficulties with manual placental segmentation. In the
306 future innovative automatic segmentation approaches for 3D ultrasound may
307 be find placental measurements to be clinically applicable [34]. Variation in
308 placental volume is greater in the first trimester before 10 weeks i.e. before
309 the definitive placenta is fully formed [35], with a fundal or low placental
310 position being more difficult to assess than the fully anterior or posterior
311 position [33]. We have previously found that in pregnancies with a normal
312 outcome, there is no significant relationship between placental shape at 11-
313 13⁶ weeks of gestation and birthweight or centile, suggesting that the
314 placental shape is not completely determined during the early phases of
315 placentation and is not directly related to fetal size during the first half of
316 pregnancy [24,25].

317 A distinct relationship exists between the uterine spiral arteries and the
318 fetal or placental lobules and the finding of a smaller basal plate surface area
319 at 11-13⁺⁶ weeks of gestation in pregnancies subsequently complicated by
320 pre-eclampsia [24]. This also suggests that ultrasound measurements of the
321 basal surface area reflects placentation indirectly and that this parameter is
322 less likely to be affected by the physiological morphological changes in the
323 placental structure between 8 and 12 weeks of gestation than placental
324 volume evaluated with 3D ultrasound.

325 **Conclusion**

326 In uncomplicated singleton pregnancies with a normal birthweight, 2D
327 measurements of placentation are related with fetal size but are not related to
328 subsequent excessive or slow fetal growth. LGA at birth is associated with
329 increased MS PAPP-A at 11-14 weeks of gestation supporting the association
330 between PAPP-A synthesis and early placental growth and development. The
331 clinical use of routine first trimester placental measurements in uncomplicated
332 pregnancies remains to be evaluated by large prospective cohorts.

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345

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Table 1. Comparison (W test) of the birthweight, crown rump length (CRL), ultrasound and endocrinological data in women with a booking BMI < 25 (n= 193) with those with a BMI \geq 25 (n= 66). BMI was measured at 8-10 weeks of gestation

Variables	BMI < 25		BMI \geq 25		p
	Median	LQ;UQ	Median	LQ;UQ	
CRL (mm)	63	56;70	62	57;70	0.80
Birthweight (g)	3475	3226;3689	3454	3251;3622	0.89
Placental thickness (mm)	18.1	15.6;21.6	18.4	16.1;21.8	0.81
Basal plate surface (mm ²)	442	319;531	398	313;517	0.23
Placental volume (mm ³)	67.2	45.6;94.7	61.9	47.7;77.8	0.35
f β hCG (MoM)	0.98	0.69;1.42	1.20	0.76;1.84	<0.05
Inhibin A (MoM)	0.95	0.74;1.29	1.10	0.80;1.27	0.23
PAPP-A (MoM)	1.08	0.74;1.51	0.95	0.70;1.30	0.19

Data are presented as median and lower quartile (LQ); upper quartile (UQ).

Table 2. Comparison of the median for the ultrasound and endocrinological measurements of placental development in LGA neonates (birthweight >90th centile, n=30) and controls (birthweight 10th-90th centile, n=90).

Variables	LGA		Controls		p
	Median	LQ;UQ	Median	LQ;UQ	
Placental thickness (mm)	18.2	15.2;21.7	17.9	15.3;22.0	0.91
Basal plate surface (mm ²)	446	366;522	453	346;556	0.36
Placental volume (mm ³)	63.4	47.7;87.1	68.4	49.9;87.5	0.71
fβhCG (MoM)	1.13	0.69;1.59	1.09	0.72;1.46	0.78
Inhibin A (MoM)	0.88	0.67;1.18	1.02	0.78;1.26	0.17
PAPP-A (MoM)	1.27	0.98;1.73	1.03	0.74;1.46	<0.05

Data are presented as median and lower quartile (LQ); upper quartile (UQ).

Table 3. Comparison of the median for the ultrasound and endocrinological measurements of placental development in SGA neonates (birthweight <10th centile, n=17) and controls (birthweight 10th-90th centile, n=56).

Variables	SGA		Controls		p
	Median	LQ;UQ	Median	LQ;UQ	
Placental thickness (mm)	17.5	14.7;19.3	18.5	17.5;21.5	0.11
Basal plate surface (mm ²)	458	368;586	443	318;519	0.91
Placental volume (mm ³)	64.5	52.7;82.4	67.6	47.1;88.6	0.27
fβhCG (MoM)	1.09	0.91;1.58	1.11	0.75;1.58	0.87
Inhibin A (MoM)	0.98	0.80;1.08	1.09	0.78;1.37	0.45
PAPP-A (MoM)	1.15	0.91;1.26	1.08	0.74;1.49	0.91

Data are presented as median and lower quartile (LQ); upper quartile (UQ).

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483 **Figure 1 Legend**

484 Scatter plot illustrating the relationship between first trimester maternal serum
485 PAPP-A Multiple of the Median (MoM) and birthweight in the Large for
486 Gestational Age group. The regression line is indicated in blue, the red and
487 the purple lines indicate the confidence intervals.

488 **Supplementary Figure 1 Legend**

489 Scatter plot illustrating the relationship between first trimester placental
490 surface area and birthweight for the whole cohort. The regression line is
491 indicated in blue, the red and the purple lines indicate the confidence
492 intervals.

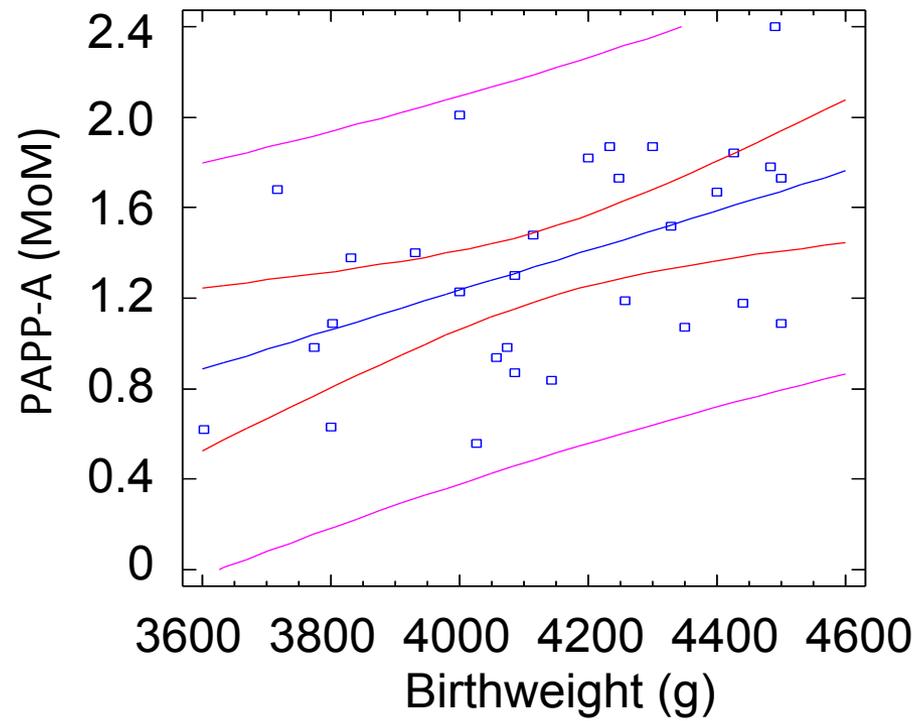
493 **Supplementary Figure 2 Legend**

494 Scatter plot illustrating the relationship between first trimester placental 2D
495 volume and birthweight for the whole cohort. The regression line is indicated
496 in blue, the red and the purple lines indicate the confidence intervals.

497

Figure

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Supplementary File

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Supplementary File

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