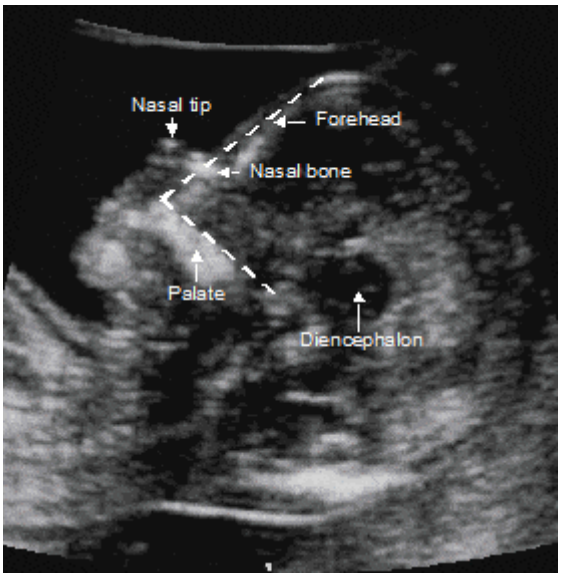
Fetal Medicine Foundation
Measurement of the Facial Angle

The gestational period must be 11 to 13 weeks and 6 days.

- The magnification of the image should be such that the fetal head and thorax occupy the whole image.
- The fetus should be in a neutral position, with the head in line with the spine, not hyper-extended or flexed.
- A mid-sagittal view of the face should be obtained. This is defined by the presence of the echogenic tip of the nose and rectangular shape of the palate anteriorly, the translucent diencephalon in the centre and the nuchal membrane posteriorly. Minor deviations from the exact midline plane would cause non-visualization of the tip of the nose and visibility of the zygomatic process of the maxilla.
- The facial angle should be measured between a line along the upper surface of the palate and a line which traverses the upper corner of the anterior aspect of the maxilla extending to the external surface of the forehead, represented by the frontal bones or an echogenic line under the skin below the metopic suture that remains open.
- 3-D ultrasound appears to be helpful in obtaining the correct view.



Requirements for accreditation in first trimester assessment of the facial angle are:

- FMF accreditation in the measurement of the nuchal translucency.
- Attendance of the internet based course on the 11-13 weeks scan.
- Submission of 3 images demonstrating the measurement of the fronto-maxillary facial angle.