

Sonographer Perspectives on Placental Volume Measurement and Ultrasound Education: A Survey Study

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Introduction. Placental evaluation during obstetric ultrasound commonly includes assessment of placental location, umbilical cord insertion, and relationship to the internal cervical os. However, placental volume measurement is not routinely incorporated into standard ultrasound protocols despite potential clinical applications. Authors of this study aimed to assess sonographer familiarity with, utilization of, and perceptions regarding placental volume measurement in clinical practice.

Methods. A cross-sectional, web-based survey was administered to practicing sonographers. Items assessed demographics, practice characteristics, familiarity with placental volume measurement, and involvement in education. Primary outcome was familiarity with and routine use of placental volume measurement. Secondary outcomes included institutional protocols and teaching involvement.

Results: Fifteen sonographers completed the survey. Most worked in hospital settings (66.7%, n = 10), and all were White (100%, n = 15). The majority performed 6-10 scans daily (73.3%, n = 11), and 40.0% (n = 6) had >20 years of experience. Placental volume measurement was not required in any laboratory (100%, n = 15). Most respondents reported limited familiarity, with 66.7% (n = 10) indicating they do not routinely perform it. Standard protocols most commonly included placental location (100%, n = 15), relationship to the internal os (72.7%, n = 8), and cord insertion (63.6%, n = 7). Most reported teaching sonography students (78.6%, n = 11).

Conclusions. Placental volume measurement rarely is incorporated into routine obstetric ultrasound practice, and sonographers report limited familiarity with the technique. Study limitations include small sample size and convenience sampling. Increased education and standardized protocols may improve adoption of advanced placental imaging methods.