

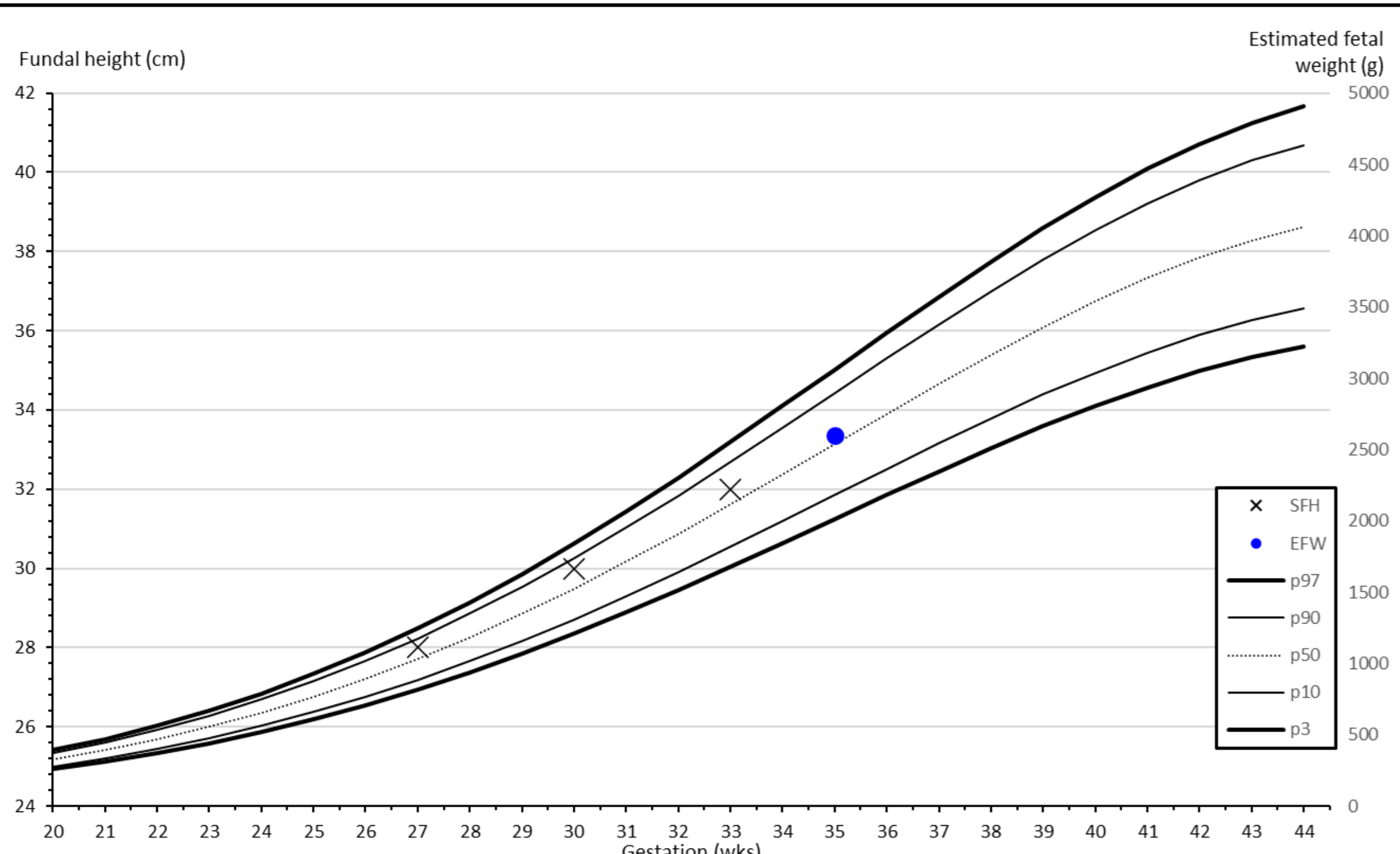
Objectives

- There's been ongoing advocacy of routine one-off third trimester ultrasound scans despite lack of evidence of benefit.
- We wanted to assess their effectiveness in detecting small for gestational age (SGA) babies.

Methods

- We studied routinely recorded, anonymised data of singleton pregnancies in 47 NHS units from 11/2024 to 11/2025.
- Estimated fetal weight (EFW) was recorded in three categories:
 1. Low risk with a planned scan between 34.0 and 38.0 weeks (N=2912)
 2. Low risk with serial fundal height (FH) measurement which prompted a scan (N=21,931)
 3. Increased risk with serial scans (N=46,041).
- We analysed SGA rate (<10th centile) by EFW and birthweight, detection rate (DR) and false positive rate (FP). Centiles were by customised GROW standard without adjustment for sex.

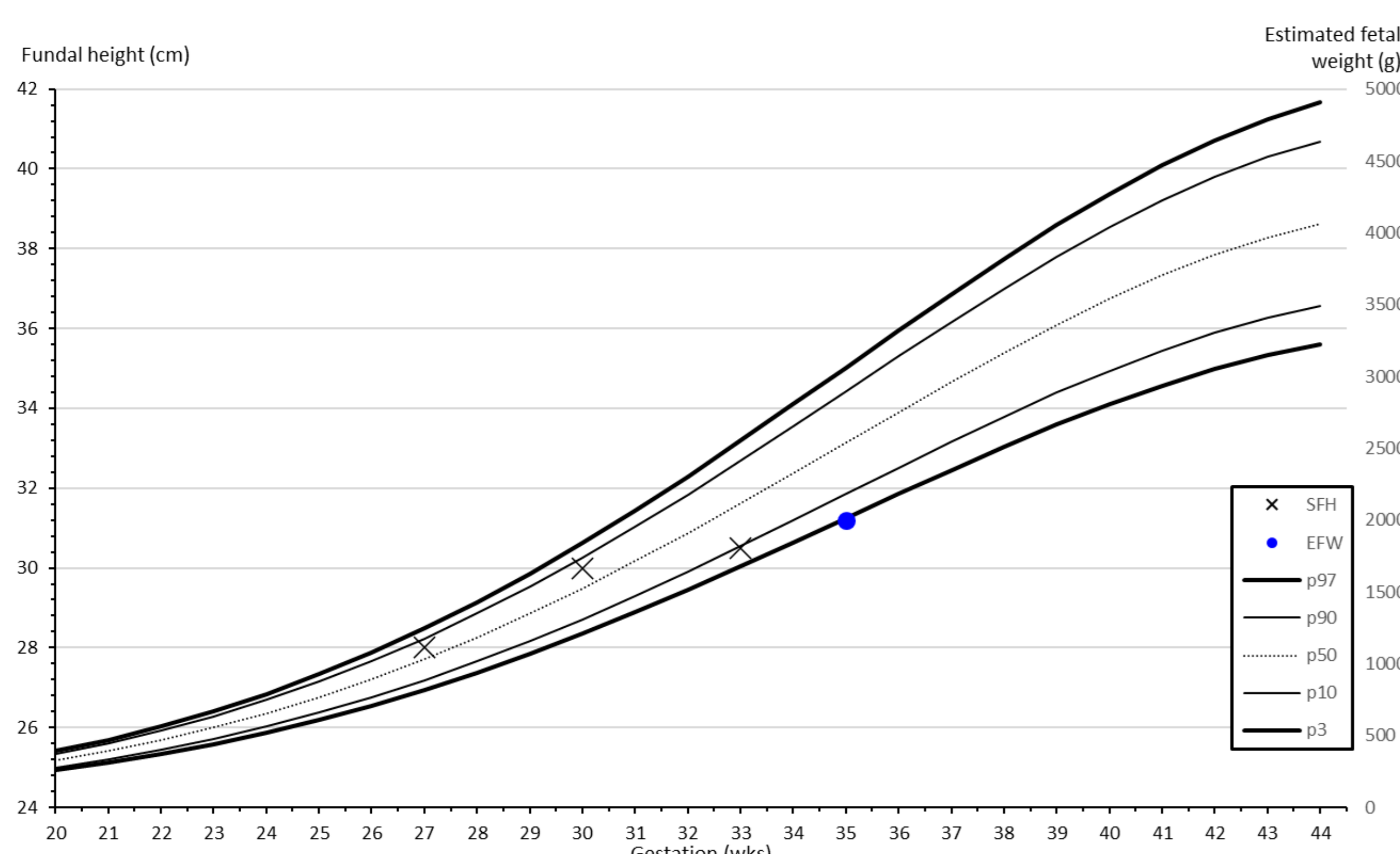
1. Routine one-off scan



Performance

	%
Screen positive rate	3.2
SGA rate at birth	7.5
Detection rate	25.7
False positive rate	1.4

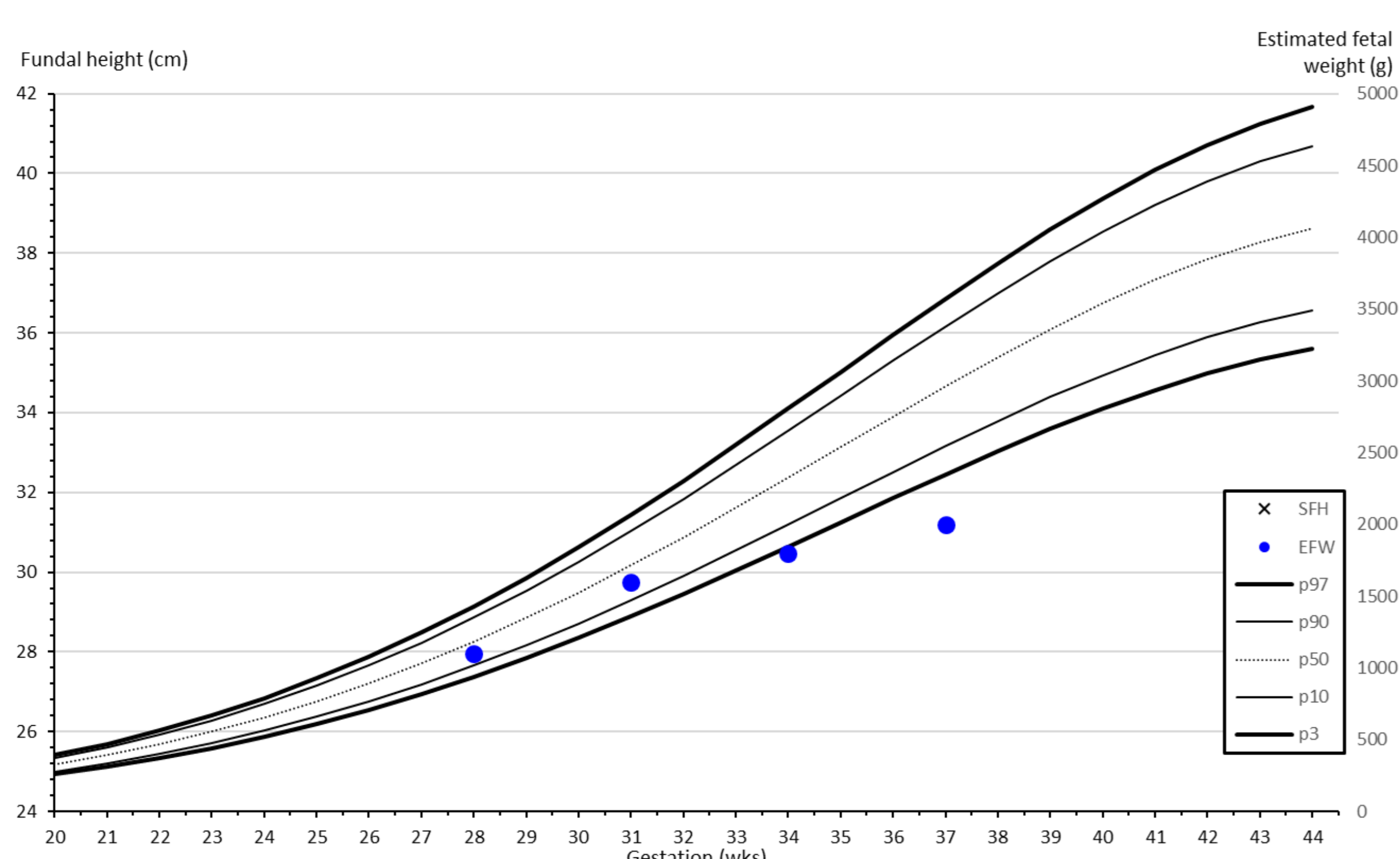
2. Serial fundal height



Performance

	%
Screen positive rate	10.8
SGA rate at birth	13.2
Detection rate	43.3
False positive rate	5.9

3. Serial scans



Performance

	%
Screen positive rate	15.1
SGA rate at birth	17.6
Detection rate	52.4
False positive rate	7.2

Results

- The routine one-off scans were done at a median 35+5 weeks. Screen positive rate was 3.2%, SGA rate at birth 7.5% and detection rate 25.7%.
- Pregnancies with scans (at median 37+2 weeks) indicated by serial FH assessment had a significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) detection rate, with screen positive rate of 10.8% and SGA rate of 13.2% at birth.
- Serially scanned pregnancies had higher screen positive rate (15.1%), SGA rate at birth (17.6%) and DR (52.4%).

Conclusions

- One-off third trimester scans have significantly lower screen positive rates and detection rates for SGA birthweight than those based on serial fundal height measurements.
- Resources applied for such scans may be better used in increased risk pregnancies where surveillance by serial scans is clinically indicated.