

Trend

NTQA Program:

Trend is one of the statistical parameters used to assess a sonographer's nuchal translucency measurement accuracy.

Trend describes the shape of the NT/CRL data point distribution, relative to the Fetal Medicine Foundation (FMF-UK) reference curve. The data points should follow the general shape and direction of the FMF curve. In a normal population, NT measurements typically increase with increasing crown-rump length.

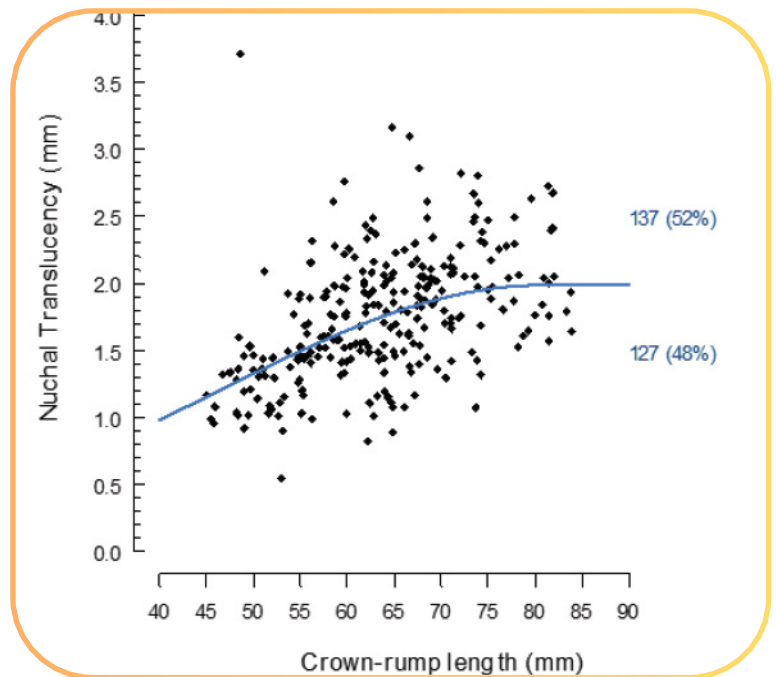
What does the number mean?

Trend is assessed by comparing the tendency and direction of observed NT data points to that of the FMF curve. The value displayed shows the degree of discrepancy between the expected trend and the arrangement of the NT/CRL data points. An acceptable spread will be close to zero (0). When the data points create a shape that strays from the FMF curve, the trend will be either a positive decimal (e.g. 0.005), or a negative decimal (e.g. -0.003).

Trend



-0.002



This example graph shows NT data points with an acceptable trend, where the data points follow the shape and direction of the FMF reference curve.

- Trend can help to identify inconsistencies in an operator's NT measurement practice.
- Atypical trend can have a significant impact on the accuracy of prenatal screening results.

Looking for more information?

Visit Prenatal Screening Ontario's [website for Sonographers](https://www.prenatalscreeningontario.ca) or contact us to speak with a clinical content specialist

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