A proper focus on risk is integral to individualized care. Certified by the Fetal Medicine Foundation (FMF), Dr. Robert Lachmann champions the FMF’s “inverted pyramid of care” principle. At its heart: an 11-13 week assessment to help clinicians estimate early patient-specific risks for fetal abnormalities and pregnancy complications. To support other clinicians in putting this concept into practice at their clinics, Dr. Lachmann recently collaborated with Philips to develop 11-13 week scan presets on two premium ultrasound systems.
Putting the patient first
Every woman wants to be treated as an individual, emphasizes Dr. Lachmann, and the image quality and workflow tools on Philips ultrasound systems help clinicians deliver this high level of care. “Patients want peace of mind,” he continues, “and I feel we can offer this at the end of the 11-13 week scan. In one visit, we have the maternal history, the images, the blood pressure measurements – in one report with the information we need. Instead of asking patients to come back in two weeks for a consultation, we can point out clinically relevant findings right away and discuss treatment.”

Working efficiently across the patient spectrum
The new presets free up clinicians’ time for patient care. Following the Fetal Medicine Foundation guidelines for the 11-13 week assessment is as easy as pushing a button, he reports, and the process yields rich clinical information. “These additional markers support high detection rates and low false positives,” he points out. “It is quite simple and [results in] individualized care.”

The overall system design also allows clinicians to cope with a wide variety of patients. “We have a simple workflow on one machine,” he says, “so we switch quickly between routine clinical work and advanced diagnostics.” Philips transducers play a key role here. They’re easy to exchange and “with just four probes, we can address almost all of our clinical situations – even obese patients.”

Making one investment for multiple specialties
Pediatric cardiology specialists at the University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus Dresden also rely on the fetal medicine clinic’s EPIQ system and collaborate with obstetrics caregivers. “This is made possible by the EPIQ’s transducers,” he notes. “We really like the concept of a ‘shared system’ Philips delivers.”

Excellent patient care starts early
“Image quality – good visualization and resolution – helps reduce exam times, but when you have information as early as possible – that’s when you save time overall.”

Research and practice from the last 20 years has revealed that more than 90% of all major aneuploidies can be identified at 11-13 weeks’ gestation by a combination of maternal characteristics, ultrasound findings and biochemical testing of maternal blood.¹

These comparative scans demonstrate what can already be visualized at 12 weeks.

“The 11-13 week scan is a revolution in pregnancy care. I feel very safe in performing this assessment, and it helps us better guide women through their pregnancies.”

Dr. Robert Lachmann, senior physician at the Department for Obstetrics and Gynecology and lead consultant for prenatal medicine and fetal therapy, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus Dresden, Germany