Second trimester maternal serum AFP screening

ACOG states that high-quality, second-trimester fetal anatomy ultrasonography is an appropriate screening test for NTDs where routinely performed for fetal anatomic survey at 18 to 22 weeks. If optimal images of the fetal spine or intracranial anatomy are not obtained (eg, fetal position or maternal obesity), MSAFP should be performed to improve detection of NTDs.

* Practice Bulletin No. 187: Neural Tube Defects. Committee on Practice Bulletins-Obstet Gynecol. 2017;130(6):e279.

* UpToDate. Dukhovny. Topic last updated: Aug 28, 2019.