Introduction
First trimester dating ultrasound scan is usually performed between 10+0 and 13+6 weeks to determine the gestational age and scan for viability and gross fetal abnormalities.

Objective
This study aims to examine the finding of the dating ultrasound scan and its implications on antenatal care.

Methodology
A retrospective review of all dating ultrasound scans for patients that was performed in Cork University Maternity Hospital between January and December 2017. 6077 dating scans were reviewed from the PACS archive of scans. Data from the scan reports were collected by the author using a structured spreadsheet. Microsoft Excel was used for data analysis.

Results
There were 6077 dating scans performed in the ultrasound department. According to the gestational age estimated by ultrasound scan, 4965 of the dating scans were performed between 10 and 13+6 weeks. This counts for 81.7% of the total dating scans. Singleton pregnancy diagnosed in 5951 scans (97.9%). Multiple pregnancies were diagnosed in 112 scans (1.83%) with chorionicity assigned in all cases.

Fetuses were diagnosed to be viable in 5950 (97.9%) ultrasound scans. Diagnosis of missed miscarriage was made in 94 ultrasound scans (1.5%) due to the absence of cardiac activity in fetuses with CRL greater than 8mm.

Looking at fetal anomalies a total of 25 ultrasound scans were found to be abnormal with increased nuchal translucency being the main abnormality.

Conclusion
The results of this study emphasis on the importance of dating ultrasound scan as an essential landmark for determining antenatal care pathway as early detection of abnormalities can mean a detour in the usual care pathway. It is also relevant at a time when more emphasis is being placed on second trimester anomaly ultrasound scans to the exclusion of basic dating ultrasound scans in some maternity units.