Objective
To investigate women’s preferred timing of screening for fetal structural anomalies. To explore women’s knowledge and understanding of prenatal screening and to evaluate screening-related anxiety.

Methods
1037 women completed two online questionnaires on their decision and reasons to opt for or decline the 13-week scan. The questionnaires were filled in before and after the scan. The state-trait anxiety inventory scale (STAI), positive and negative affect schedule (PANAS) and The SUM-score method were used for the analyses.

Results
Most women (98.69%, n=904) chose for the 13-week scan; 98% (n=1026) preferred to be informed as early as possible about fetal structural anomalies. Women reported lower (p<0.01) anxiety levels after the 13-week scan compared to before. Knowledge of the goals of the screening program was good in 75.2%, sufficient in 21.8% and insufficient in 3% of the women. Also, 91% of women understood the strengths and limitations of the 13-week scan.

Conclusion
The great majority of women (98.2%) wishes to know as early as possible in pregnancy if fetal structural anomalies are suspected. Finally, Undergoing the 13-week anomaly scan significantly reduced anxiety levels in mothers who opted for it.