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Monday, 17th October 2011

The guidelines doctors are currently following to diagnose miscarriages are inadequate and could lead to the termination of viable pregnancies, [maternal and newborn health](#) researchers have warned.

Four papers published in journal *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynaecology* by scientists from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium and the UK's Imperial College London and Queen Mary, University of London, concluded that healthy foetuses could be needlessly aborted.

At the moment, ultrasound technology is used to check the size of the gestational sac and embryo to see if a woman has miscarried, but the researchers found the cut-off measurements doctors are advised to use to make this decision are not reliable.

"Health professionals need clearer evidence-based guidance to prevent this happening," editor-in-chief of the journal Professor Basky Thilaganathan stated.

Researchers from the University of Granada's Department of Pharmacology in Spain recently found a possible link between copper and zinc deficiencies during pregnancy and miscarriage.

Posted by Carla MacKenzie

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