Flowchart: Stillbirth investigations

Core investigations

Maternal
- History—medical, obstetric, social, family, travel infectious diseases risk areas
- Examination
- Kleihauer-Betke or flow cytometry
- Syphilis point of care testing

Baby
- External examination
- Anthropometric measurements
- Clinical photographs
- Standard radiographic, CT or MRI babygram
- Full autopsy
  - If no parental consent partial autopsy* should be considered

Placenta and cord (fresh and unfixed)
- Macroscopic examination
- Histopathology
- Chromosomal microarray

Findings

Personal/family history of VTE, FGR, placental abruption and/or infarction
- APS** tests

Pruritus (without rash) in pregnancy and/or risk factors for obstetric cholestasis
- LFTs
- Bile acids

LGA
- HbA1c

SGA/FGR
- HbA1c
- CMV
- APS** tests

Hydropic

Anaemic

Jaundiced

Fetal cardiomyopathy

Consider test for:
- Rubella
- Parvovirus
- Zika
- CMV

Check:
- Blood group and antibody screen
- Kleihauer/flow cytometry result

Fetal anomalies

Check:
- Chromosomal microarray result
- Infections as indicated
  - Rubella
  - Zika
- Consider clinical genetics review

Infection

Check:
- PPROM history
- Cervical insufficiency if chorioamnionitis
- Infections as indicated

Placental abruption/infarction
- APS** tests

Selective investigations

**APS tests—antiphospholipid syndrome tests
- Anticardiolipin antibodies
- Lupus anticoagulant
- Anti-B2 glycoprotein-1 antibodies

*Partial autopsy may be minimally invasive or non-invasive depending on parents wishes and consent. Includes:
  - Above except full autopsy
  - Needle biopsies, laparoscopic autopsy or access to tissue from small incisions

**APS—antiphospholipid syndrome

Abbreviations: APS: Antiphospholipid syndrome; CMV: Cytomegalovirus; CT: Computed tomography; HbA1c: Glycated haemoglobin; FGR: fetal growth restriction; LFTs: Liver function tests; LGA: large for gestational age; MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging; PPROM: Preterm prolonged rupture of membranes; PSANZ: Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand; SGA: small for gestational age; VTE: venous thromboembolism

Refer also to PSANZ guidelines