

International Seminar 1 : Representative from FIGO&AOFOG

4) Routine Fetal Echocardiography, Why, When and How

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Congenital Cardiac defects are associated with majority of Syndrome and accounts for 50 percent of Infant Mortality. The incidence at live birth is around one in 4000.

90 percent of congenital heart defects occur in the low risk groups. Only one percent of congenital heart defects are diagnosed prenatally. With routine fetal echocardiography majority of the major lethal cardiac defect could be diagnosed prenatally by 22 weeks of Gestation.

With the availability of the present day high end ultrasound machine most of the major cardiac defects can be confidently excluded by 14 weeks of Gestation. Genetic Fetal Abnormality scan with fetal Echocardiography will identify 90-92% of Chromosomally abnormal fetuses by 13 to 14 weeks of Gestation, making the risk of fetal loss following invasive procedures to be greater than the risk of a Downs Syndrome until the women reaches 46 years of age. In addition Alpha Thalasaemia major, Twin to Twin transfusion syndrome and Rhesus Iso-immunisation can be confidentially excluded on ultrasound with the introduction of early Fetal Echocardiography.
