The Children's Heart Center
Fetal Heart Program

www.aubmc.org

AUBMC
1902
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY *of* BEIRUT MEDICAL CENTER
المركز الطـبّي فـي الجـامعـة الأمـيركيّة فـي بـيروت

Our lives are dedicated to yours

Fetal Heart Program

The Children's Heart Center at the American University of Beirut Medical Center provides a comprehensive and multidisciplinary Fetal Heart Program that allows for early detection of congenital heart disease before the child is born. This new program is one of a kind in the country and in the region as it aims to provide comprehensive management of the baby with heart disease even before birth. With the current advances in technology, the diagnosis of most cases of congenital heart disease has become readily available even in utero. The Fetal Heart Program at AUBMC offers diagnosis and management of various fetal cardiac defects and fetal heart rhythm disturbances. Early detection of such cardiac conditions in the unborn child allows for better coordination of the baby's delivery, thus leading to a more appropriate care by our team of pediatric subspecialists. The impact of prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease has been shown to improve the outcome by detecting cardiac lesions even prior to the child's birth. It also allows for a better preparation of the family on what type of post-natal care the child would need.

Our Services

■ Acceptance of referrals from obstetricians, family medicine practitioners and other specialists taking care of pregnant women.

■ Consultation for the fetus at risk for cardiac defects. Such indications include the following:

• Maternal conditions requiring fetal cardiac evaluation, including:
  - Maternal systemic diseases (lupus, diabetes, etc.)
  - Family history of previous child with congenital heart disease
  - Late maternal age
  - Maternal intake of potentially teratogenic medications or drugs
  - Maternal infections
  - Pregnancy conceived through artificial reproductive techniques

• Fetal conditions requiring fetal cardiac evaluation, including:
  - Abnormal obstetrical ultrasound or inability to visualize the fetal heart
  - Fetal genetic and extracardiac anomalies
  - Suspected fetal arrhythmias
  - Fetal hydrops
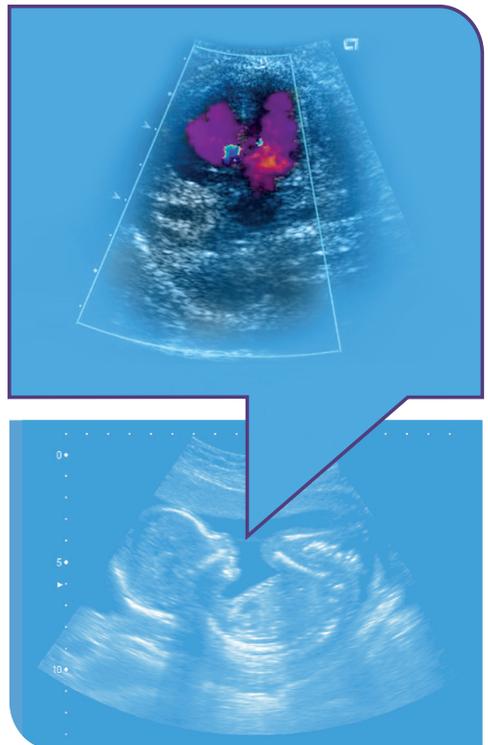
What You Can Expect From Us

When you refer patients to the Fetal Heart Program at AUBMC, you can expect the following:

■ Availability
- Our staff is readily available to coordinate scheduling your referrals promptly.

■ A High Level of Care
- Advanced diagnostics and treatment modalities: Our team of specialists uses the most advanced technologies in order to provide an accurate and timely diagnosis of congenital heart disease in utero.
- Coordination for further evaluations by subspecialists (such as genetic referral and counseling), as deemed necessary, as well as meeting with the neonatology team to prepare the family for the expected post-natal care.

■ A Collaborative Relationship
- Ongoing communication throughout the entire process with updates on the fetal cardiac status and appropriate coordination of the baby's delivery.
- Coordination of the baby's delivery depending on the cardiac lesion involved, as well as on the obstetrician's and family's choices.

Fetal cardiac anomalies can be diagnosed early in fetal life. Our team prefers to evaluate the fetal heart at around 18-24 weeks of gestation or later if need be. Under certain conditions, evaluations can be done earlier in gestation as well. A plan of care is made in collaboration with the referring obstetrician, after the diagnosis of the baby's cardiac condition.

Our Staff

The Fetal Heart Program team members include the following pediatric and fetal cardiologists:

Karim Diab, MD, FACC, FASE
Director of the Fetal Heart Program

Mariam Arabi, MD
Pediatric Cardiologist

Fadi Bitar, MD
Director of the Children's Heart Center
AUBMC

Our Address

The Fetal Heart Program is part of the Children's Heart Center at AUBMC.

We are conveniently located on the 6th floor in the pediatric echocardiography laboratory area. You can reach us by calling 01-350000 ext. 5881.

American University of Beirut
Medical Center
PO Box: 11-0236
Riad El Solh, Beirut 1107 2020
Beirut - Lebanon
www.aubmc.org