3D/4D Ultrasound Being Applied to the Diagnosis of a True Knot in an Umbilical Cord

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Editorial

Viewing the articles published in this last issue of the Journal of Pregnancy and Child Health, one can see the various manuscripts that can be of interest to the obstetric (and related) clinician. What is also apparent, is the value of modern imaging for the diagnosis of conditions that may not have been diagnosable not too long ago. This includes 3D/4D Ultrasound being applied to the diagnosis of a true knot in an umbilical cord, or MRI for the diagnosis of endometriosis [1,2].

Clinicians also have the opportunity to recognize the importance of what has become a universally used vital statistic, namely Body Mass Index (BMI). This includes the understanding of the continuum of pre-pregnancy BMI and weight gain in pregnancy, in terms of the medical conditions that are associated with elevated BMI (e.g. gestational diabetes). This information helps us properly identify and manage these conditions that present themselves to the practicing clinician [3].

Finally, with our increasing reliance on "Big Data", we can be able to view clinically significant trends, so that we can collectively improve the quality of medical care we provide. An example of this is the identification of iatrogenic risk of hemorrhage that may result from providing VTE prophylaxis (i.e., thrombolytic medications administered to prevent the occurrence of postoperative venous thromboembolism). That manuscript relied upon information electronically collected within an Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW) [4]. This gives healthcare providers the necessary clinical tools which can result from using current technology (e.g. the Electronic Medical Record).

References