ROLE OF FETAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY IN DIAGNOSIS OF FETAL CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

Thesis

Submitted for partial fulfillment of M.D. Degree
in Radiodiagnosis

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2018

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I would certainly like to express my deepest gratitude to **Dr. Amani Emad Eldin Radi**, Prof. of Radiology, Ain Shams University for her precious guidance, continuous support, care andencouragement.

I would like to thank **Dr. Yasser Ibrahim Abdelkhalek,** Lecturer of Radiology, Ain Shams University, for his valuable training & indispensable support during conduction of this work.

I am indebted to **Dr. Ali Hagag ALi**, Lecturer of Radiology Ain Shams University for his kind supervision, and valuable scientificrecommendations.

In addition, I would like to convey my feelings of deep respect to **Dr.Sameh Abdellatiff,** Assistant Lecturer of Radiology Cairo University, and **Dr.Mohamed Gebril,** radiology specialist for their continuous guidance to me and generous advice, encouragement & priceless opportunity.

Words cannot express my feelings of gratitude towards my Parent and my husband for their unconditional love, support and forbearance during the preparation of this work.

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INTRODUCTION

Congenital heart disease is a leading cause of infant morbidity and mortality, Accurate prenatal diagnosis offers potential clinical benefit with regard to infant outcome.

Fetal echocardiography is broadly defined as a detailed sonographic evaluation that is used to identify and characterize fetal heart anomalies before delivery. This specialized diagnostic procedure should be performed only when there is a valid medical reason, and the lowest possible ultrasonic exposure settings should be used to gain the necessary diagnostic information. While it is not possible to detect every abnormality, adherence to the proper parameter will maximize the probability of detecting most cases of clinically significant congenital heart disease.

When congenital heart disease is diagnosed during fetal life, the expectant parents should have a detailed discussion with a fetal cardiologist with regard to the prognosis of the cardiac lesion, covering not only procedural risks, but also long-term mortality, morbidity, and quality of life. There should also be a discussion with regard to possible associations, including karyotypic abnormalities, noncardiac structural anomalies, and syndromes to have a full picture of the prognosis for theirbaby.

Depending on the severity of the cardiac lesion, the associated abnormalities, gestational age, and local laws, one of the options open to parents may include termination of pregnancy.

AIMOFTHEWORK

The aim of the current study is to evaluate the role of fetal echocardiography in diagnosis of different fetal congenital heart disease in high risk pregnancies compared to non risk pregnancy in order to asses how the fetal echocardiography is benificial in early diagnosis and mangement of fetuses with congenital heart diseases.