

=ABSTRACT=

Reference Ranges of Doppler Indices in the Fetal Middle Cerebral Artery
according to Gestational Age

Yong Won Park, M.D., Jae Sung Cho, M.D., Hye Kyung Kwon, M.D.,
Young Han Kim, M.D., Chang Hee Lee, M.D.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

Objectives : To investigate the "brain sparing effect", a paradoxical increase in fetal cerebral perfusion in pregnant women with uteroplacental insufficiency through fetal middle cerebral artery(MCA) waveform analysis, and to construct new reference ranges for fetal MCA Doppler flow velocity resistance indices in normal pregnancies to be used in the assessment of fetal well-being.

Materials and Methods : The subjects were selected from pregnant women receiving antenatal care at Severance Hospital between March 1996 and December 1999. Fetal MCA reference resistance index range according to gestational age were obtained through routine Doppler velocimetry for 4621 normal pregnant women between 24-42 gestational weeks. Those manifesting multiple pregnancy, Diabetes Mellitus, drug abuse, chronic hypertension, fetal congenital anomaly, fetal growth restriction(FGR) with discrepancies of more than 7days and pregnancies complicated by pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH) were excluded. Additionally, the fetal MCA hemodynamic changes were compared for 140 pregnant women with FGR or PIH. The normal ranges for fetal MCA Doppler resistance indices were expressed as mean \pm SD, and a comparative analysis between the PIH or FGR group and the normal control group was performed. Statistical analysis was done using the SPSS 8.0 program, t-test and the Pearson correlation.

Result : The fetal MCA doppler flow resistance indices for normal pregnancies were 0.77 ± 0.006 at 24 weeks and 0.79 ± 0.006 at 28 weeks, demonstrating a statistically significant increase ($p < 0.05$). At 40 weeks the index was 0.71 ± 0.009 showing a significant decrease after 28weeks ($p < 0.05$). There was a tendency for the resistance index to be lower in the PIH/FGR group compared to the normal controls.

Conclusion : Constructing a normal reference resistance index range for fetal MCA flow is of high clinical value with regards to predicting fetal well being and understanding the hemodynamics of fetal cerebral perfusion.

Key Words : Fetal MCA, Doppler flow resistance index, fetal hypoxia

(electronic fetal
monitoring, NST),
(Biophysical profile)
1980 가 가
가 가^{1,2}

_____ : 2001. 1. 29.
* 1999

가
가
sparing effect"가
가 가

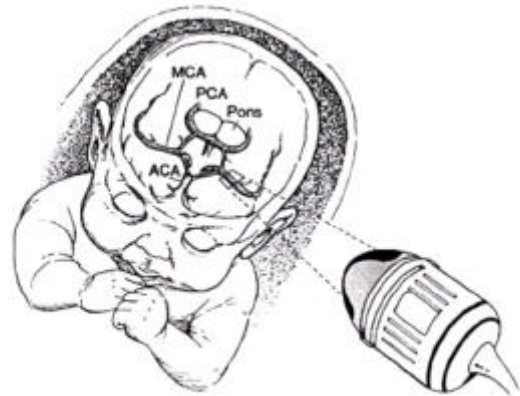


Fig. 1. The plane of MCA-Doppler ultrasonography

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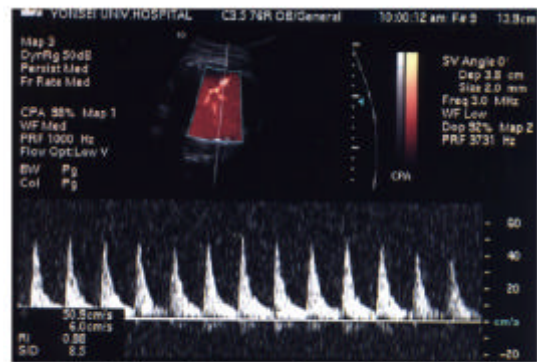


Fig. 2. Flow velocity waveform of the fetal MCA

1996 3 1999 12
7
4621 routine Doppler
velocimetry
reference resistance index range
140
ATL
HDI-3000/5000
3.5MHz color flow
mapping pulsed
circle of Willis (Fig. 1),
1/3

mean \pm SD 95% (confidence interval)
8.0 program SPSS
t-test, Pearson correlation
p value 0.05

pulsed sample gate
wall filter 100MHz
sample gate 2mm
5
(Fig. 2).

24 가
0.77 \pm 0.006, 28 0.79 \pm 0.006 28 가
가 p=0.006
, 40 0.71 \pm 0.009 28
가 p=0.005
(Table 1, Fig. 3).