

Referral information

Fetal Cardiology Program

What we need

We understand expecting parents can feel anxious during this time, and we will do everything we can to schedule appointments, particularly when urgent, within 24-48 hours. Before an appointment can be made, our scheduling coordinator must receive the following information:

- Referral form
- Patient demographics
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Address
 - Phone Number
- Insurance information
- Ultrasound report

Once all required information has been received, our scheduling coordinator will call the patient to make an appointment. After three unsuccessful attempts to contact the patient, we will make the referring provider's office aware so they are able to follow up properly. We can schedule fetal echoes at any of our fetal cardiology locations from 18 weeks gestation onward. Early gestation fetal echocardiography studies (13-16 weeks gestation) are scheduled only at Emory Children's Center.

What is included

A referral to the Fetal Program includes fetal cardiac imaging, cardiac consultations, and a nurse coordinator. In addition, social work support, genetic consultation and surgical evaluation at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Cardiology can be offered in appropriate cases.

Contact information

Call **404-256-2593** or **800-542-2233**.

Documentation can be faxed to **770-488-9404**.

Please be aware that until we receive all of the above documentation, we will not be able to schedule the appointment. To avoid a delay, please send all required information at one time.



“The Fetal Cardiology Program is dedicated to providing exemplary care to the fetus diagnosed with structural or functional heart disease and supporting the fetus and expectant family in a compassionate, comprehensive manner.”

-Erik Michelfelder, M.D.
Director, Fetal Cardiology Program

Early Gestation

Fetal Cardiac Imaging Program

Fetal echocardiography is a highly sensitive ultrasound test that provides high-quality, accurate images of a baby's heart. Typically, doctors will perform this test to assess the fetal cardiovascular system when a baby is at 18-24 weeks gestation, often in relation to the mother's 20-week ultrasound. However, due to significant advances in ultrasound technology that allows visualization of very small cardiac structures, this test may be done earlier in the pregnancy—as soon as 13-14 weeks gestation. The results of this test provide doctors with information about the heart anatomy and function that allows them to counsel families with pregnancies complicated by a fetal cardiac abnormality.

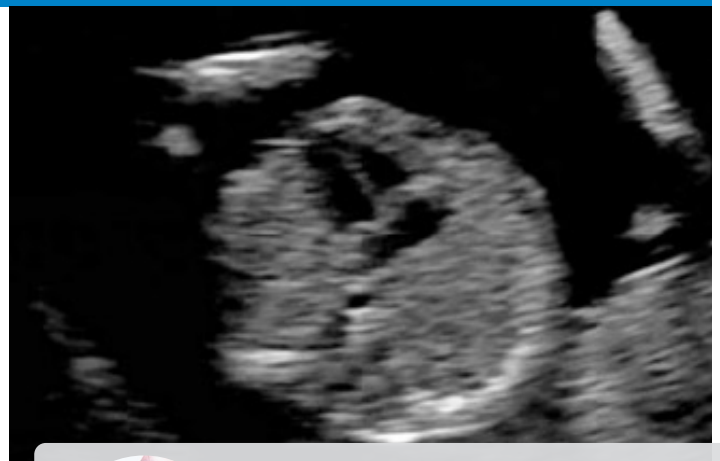
Early testing, such as maternal blood screening for fetal DNA or nuchal translucency screening, can now identify pregnancies at risk for chromosomal anomalies and/or structural heart disease very early in the pregnancy. Echocardiography helps confirm a diagnosis, so families can know as early as possible if their baby has a cardiac abnormality.

Situations in which early gestation fetal cardiac imaging may be recommended include:

- Increased nuchal translucency
- Suspected genetic or chromosomal abnormality
- History of a prior pregnancy affected by congenital heart disease
- First degree relative with congenital heart disease

Our Fetal Cardiology Program now has the equipment and operator expertise to assess the fetal heart as early as 13-14 weeks gestation. We can provide families with reliable diagnosis of fetal cardiac abnormality in those high-risk pregnancies where early diagnosis is desired. Because early fetal cardiac imaging is a novel technology, we do recommend in most cases that mothers undergoing early fetal echocardiography have a repeat study at 18-20 weeks gestation to confirm the initial findings.

Images from a fetal echocardiogram at 14 weeks EGA showing a normal aortic arch and 4 chamber view



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

See why Miller's parents credit the Children's Fetal Cardiology team for saving their daughter's life.

