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ESPS Peer-review Report

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Title: Sonographic Markers For Early Diagnosis Of Fetal Malformations

Reviewer code: 02510702

Science editor: Song, Xiu-Xia

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors present a thorough and excellent review of fetal ultrasound and its scope in prenatal diagnosis of fetal malformations. This large topic has been condensed well into this manuscript. However, since the topic is vast and the material is dense, it makes it difficult to read. Hence I would recommend adding several more figures and cartoons in the form of an online supplement, to aid in understanding each condition that has been described in the text. Several figures in this paper need better labeling as they are not self explanatory. Few other comments: 1. Figure 3 looks more like an adult heart than a fetal heart as there is no patent foramen ovale, showing the shunting of the oxygenated placental blood to the left side. 2. It would be easier to describe the Ebstein's defect as an apically displaced septal insertion of the tricuspid valve leaflet with an atrialized portion of the right ventricle. 3. Add a figure showing the 4 routine axial views of heart and great vessels 4. Add that the three main types of cardiovascular malformations in which prenatal diagnosis has been shown to be beneficial are Coarctation of the Aorta, Hypoplastic Left Ventricle, and Transposition of the Great Arteries. 5. It's inaccurate to state that simple CHD can be corrected by medical treatment alone. Several of these defects need Percutaneous cardiovascular interventions and sometimes surgeries.