

Fetal Cardiac Program

Counseling Checklist

Ward Family Heart Center

Elizabeth J. Ferrell Fetal Health Center

Cardiac Anatomy and Physiology

- Normal cardiac anatomy/physiology
- Fetal cardiac anatomy/physiology
- Specific cardiac diagnosis with anatomy/physiology
- Any diagnostic uncertainty
- Cardiac disease etiology
- Fetal echocardiography limitations

Extracardiac Issues

- Diagnosed extracardiac fetal abnormalities, interaction with CHD
- Undiagnosed known associated extracardiac anomalies
- Known genetic associations

Pregnancy Counseling

- Location of delivery
- Timing and mode of delivery
- Expectations for the rest of gestation
- Risk for hydrops
- Risk for intrauterine demise
- Outcome of delivering preterm
 - Hybrid

Immediate Postnatal Management

- Immediate postnatal stabilization and management
- Umbilical lines and possible intubation
- Prostaglandins
- Expected immediate postnatal cath/surgery interventions

Neonatal Management

- Feeding issues (NPO, breastfeeding)
- NICU parent/visitor policies

Surgical Planning

- Details of expected surgery/cath intervention
- Timing of intervention
- Possible complications of intervention
- Ventilator support
- Inotropic medications
- Drains
- Open chest
- Possible blood transfusions
- ECMO

Post-Surgical Management

- Length of hospital stay
- Other possible medical issues (need for NGT, g-tube, malrotation)
- Predicted discharge medications
- Other anticipated monitors, home nursing, home monitoring

Longer-Term Issues

- Subsequent surgeries/interventions expected
- Long-term cardiology follow-up needs
- Long-term medications
- Physical limitations/restrictions
- Neurocognitive outcomes
- Projected life expectancy
- Possible cardiac transplant

Family Issues

- Acute and long-term housing needs
- Financial effect of child with significant medical needs
- Effect of special-needs child on family
- Genetic implications for future family planning
- Introduction of community family support groups
- Connection of family to other family with similar CHD

Other System Issues

- ENT- vocal cord dysfunction
- Hematology- clots/bleeding
- Neurodevelopmental

Consults

- PACCT _____
- Genetics _____
- CV Surgeon _____
- Social Work _____
- General Surgery _____
- Neonatology _____
- Tour-FHC/NICU/PICU/4S _____

If you have questions, please contact the Fetal Cardiac team at fetalcardio@cmh.edu.