

Hemoglobinopathy Evaluation in Pregnancy

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More than 270 million individuals worldwide are heterozygous carriers of a hemoglobinopathy, which include the structural hemoglobin disorders as well as the thalassemias. Individuals of African, Southeast Asian and Mediterranean descent should be offered carrier screening. Europeans, Japanese, Koreans and Native Americans are considered to be at low risk. It is important to consider the ethnic background of both the patient and the father of the pregnancy.

A combination of laboratory tests is necessary for appropriate genetic counseling and should be completed prior to making referral for perinatology/genetic counseling services. A CBC is an appropriate initial screen for those considered to be in low risk categories. A CBC in addition to a hemoglobin electrophoresis is essential for at risk groups. From ACOG, Practice Bulletin 78, tests alone are **inadequate** for screening and fail to identify several important hereditary hemoglobin gene abnormalities (Hb C traits, B-thalassemia trait, Hb E trait, Hb B trait, Hb B trait, Hb D trait). Many individuals with these genotypes may be asymptomatic, but if their partner is a carrier of a hemoglobinopathy, they may produce an offspring with a serious hemoglobin disorder. Testing is only appropriate for rapid screening when it is critical for **immediate** patient care.

CLINICAL CORNER

*Benefits of 17P**

The New England Journal of Medicine reported substantial reduction in recurrent preterm delivery and neonatal complications with the administration of 17p.

17p may be indicated if the initial obstetrical risk assessment reveals a history of preterm delivery. Please refer these patients for consultation and evaluation for initiation of 17p and cervical evaluation.

*Hydroxyprogesterone Coparate

UNIVERSITY PERINATAL ASSOCIATES OFFERS GYN SERVICES

In addition to Obstetrics, UPA now offers GYN services to your patient population. Referral may be made for any of the following reasons:

- ✓ Pelvic Pain
- ✓ Location of Intrauterine Contraceptive Device
- ✓ Abnormal Pelvic Exams
- ✓ Dysmenorrhea
- ✓ Menorrhagia
- ✓ Metrorrhagia
- ✓ Evaluation and/or monitoring of miscarriage
- ✓ Postmenopausal bleeding
- ✓ Evaluation of congenital anomalies of uterus
- ✓ Screening for patients with increased risk of malignancy
- ✓ Polyps, fibroids

DR. RUBEN QUINTERO LECTURES ON TTTS SYNDROME

World renowned Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist, Dr. Ruben Quintero, presented "What You Always Wanted to Know About Twin To Twin Transfusion Syndrome But Were Afraid to Ask" on May 6th in Palm Beach Gardens.

University Perinatal Associates would like to congratulate Dr. Quintero on his remarkable accomplishment in pioneering laser therapy for TTTS, and thank him for presenting our medical community with such important and groundbreaking information.



Dr. Ruben Quintero and Dr. Ruel T. Stoessel

CASE STUDY

Absent/Hypoplastic Nasal Bone



A.

Patient presented to our office with Advanced Maternal Age for first trimester screening. The ultrasound screening revealed an absent/hypoplastic nasal bone (Fig. A). Amniocentesis was performed and results were positive for Trisomy 21.

The ultrasound finding of an absent/hypoplastic nasal bone is a useful marker for detection of Trisomy 21 in a fetus (Fig. A.). Normal profile with ossified nasal bone is demonstrated in Figure B.



B.

Billing Tip

Just a reminder to all our referring OB offices that patients seen in our office often have a co-payment that is separate from the OB care. Some patients seem to think that a one-time co-payment is all that is required for the entire pregnancy, which is true for the global OB care only, but does not apply to a specialist.

The Pregnancy Loss Center at University Perinatal Associates

We understand how devastating a pregnancy loss can be for your patients no matter when it occurs. University Perinatal Associates has established this service to work with your patients in order to determine the cause of one or multiple loss(es) and seek to optimize the outcome in the future.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR STAFF!