EXCEPTIONAL CARE AND INNOVATION THROUGH ADVANCED IMAGING

The Fetal Neurology Center of Excellence at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals provides the highest quality care for pregnant patients whose fetuses may have neurological disorders. As pioneers in this emerging field, our team – composed of pediatric neurologists, neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists – seamlessly integrates comprehensive patient consults with leading-edge imaging to deliver the full continuum of pediatric neurological care, from the prenatal period to the time of delivery and beyond.

As part of UCSF’s Fetal Treatment Center, our accomplished experts harness the most advanced resources and specialized knowledge. This enables us to conduct thorough evaluations efficiently and assist families in making informed decisions about their care. As one of the first centers in the U.S. to perform fetal MRIs, we’ve spent more than two decades optimizing our fetal MR neuroimaging techniques. Through these efforts, we can obtain high-quality images with an enhanced focus on the fetal brain.

Our team has a culture of collaboration. We review imaging studies together in multidisciplinary discussions, drawing on our collective expertise to integrate test result information, arrive at the most likely diagnosis and develop the optimal management plan.

CONDITIONS MANAGED

- Congenital and acquired central nervous system abnormalities, including:
  - Chiari II malformation/myelomeningoceles
  - Congenital stroke/hemorrhage, including germinal matrix and intraventricular hemorrhage
  - Corpus callosum abnormalities, including agenesis
  - Isolated and complex brain malformations
  - Posterior fossa abnormalities, including Dandy-Walker malformation
  - Vascular malformations, such as vein of Galen malformation
  - Ventriculomegaly and hydrocephalus
- Congenital infections
- Genetic disorders
- And many others

MORE →
Fetal Neurology Center of Excellence

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Comprehensive, interdisciplinary care is offered, encompassing consultations with both maternal-fetal medicine and fetal neurology.
- Specialized neuroradiologists use state-of-the-art MRI technology and advanced imaging analyses to quickly and accurately diagnose conditions ranging from common to complex.
- Fetal MRIs are specifically tailored to include dedicated high-resolution imaging of the fetal brain (and spine when appropriate) and screening images of the fetal body.
- Pediatric neurologists have subspecialty training and expertise in fetal-neonatal neurology, neurogenetics, women's neurology and epilepsy.
- Comprehensive management includes compassionate counseling about the diagnosis and prognosis and guidance on safe delivery options, surgery and further consultation and testing.
- Post-birth, neonates have access to appropriate levels of care, including our Neuro-Intensive Care Nursery and NICU, for a full range of services and consultations. Management may involve follow-up MRIs (including “feed and swaddle” MRIs without anesthesia in the first few months of life), brain monitoring with video EEG, pediatric neurosurgery intervention or neuro-interventional radiology.
- Long-term follow-up at UCSF’s Pediatric Brain Center provides continuity of care and access to every pediatric neurology subspecialty.

WHY REFER TO UCSF?

- As part of UCSF’s Fetal Treatment Center, we are leaders in fetal diagnosis and treatment, including maternal-fetal genetics and precision medicine. Since 1981, UCSF has been at the forefront of the most significant breakthroughs in the field, including the first successful open fetal surgery.
- We connect patients with providers quickly, reducing the time required for expert opinions.
- Our pediatric neuroradiologists have extensive experience with fetal MRI and are recognized as international leaders in fetal neuroradiology.
- Our pediatric neurologists are pioneers in the emerging field of fetal neurology. Our clinical director is a founding member of the Fetal Neurology Consortium, a national, multicenter collaboration of child neurologists committed to advancing the practice of fetal neurology. She also serves on the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties Neonatal Neurocritical Care Examination Committee, which is developing the exam for qualification in fetal-neonatal neurology.
- Because we are a leading academic institution, our patients are among the first to benefit from the latest research advances. We also offer leading-edge imaging analysis resulting from our collaborative research efforts.

OUR TEAM

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Clinical Director, UCSF Fetal Neurology Center of Excellence

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Pediatric neuroradiologist
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Nalin Gupta, MD, PhD
Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery, UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals

Bridget LaMonica Ostrem, MD, PhD
Pediatric neurologist

Elliott Sherr, MD, PhD
Pediatric neurologist

INFORMATION / REFERRALS

- San Francisco: Phone: (800) 793-3887 (800-RX-FETUS) Fax: (415) 502-0660
- Oakland: Phone: (510) 428-3156 | Fax: (510) 428-3542
- Referrals: ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/fetal-referral

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Fetal Treatment Center