Organisation of perinatal care for fetuses with congenital heart disease

Dangel Joanna¹, Wrona Marcin², Bokiniec Renata³

1- Reference Center for Fetal Cardiology,
2- Departament of Gynaecological Endocrinology,
3- Neonatology and Neonatal Intensive Care Department,
Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the spectrum of prenatal findings, obstetric perinatal care and neonatal outcomes of fetuses with congenital heart disease (CHD).

METHODS

A retrospective review of patients born with CHD. Fetal echocardiography results, perinatal care, obstetric and neonatal outcomes were evaluated.

RESULTS

Echocardiography findings

95% of CHD were diagnosed prenatally. The most common CHD were: VSD- 14%, TOF- 10%, TGA- 9%, AVSD- 8% and HLHS- 8%.

Perinatal findings

569 fetuses with CHD

- 8% - extracardiac abnormalities
- 18% - genetic disorders
- 14% - IUGR
- 5% - rhythm disturbances
- 1,4% - intrauterine death
- 7% - preterm birth
- Vaginal delivery- 63%
- Urgent CS or vacuum- 22%
- Plamed CS- 15%

Abnormal intrapartum fetal heart rate patterns according to the SOGC guidelines were observed in 25% of fetuses during the first stage of labor.

In 9% of newborns Apgar score was less than 7 at 5 minutes and in 7% umbilical cord blood pH values were lower or equal to 7.20. All other were born in good general condition.

CONCLUSIONS

- The spectrum of congenital heart defects diagnosed in our institution is wide.
- Prenatal diagnosis of CHD unables optimal perinatal care.
- Vaginal delivery is safe for fetuses with CHD, so CS should be reserved only for traditional obstetric indications.