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## Fetal Ventriculomegaly Policy

Hutt Maternity Policies provide guidance for the midwives and medical staff working in Hutt Maternity Services. Please discuss policies relevant to your care with your Lead Maternity Carer.

### **Purpose**

To provide guidance to the clinician regarding basic workup of a case of fetal Ventriculomegaly diagnosed on antenatal scans.

### **Scope**

All obstetric staff

### **Definition**

Dilatation of the lateral cerebral ventricles of the fetus above the normal cut off (10 mm). The lateral ventricle is measured at the widest part in the posterior horn called atrium. AP (anteroposterior diameter is used)

### **Acronyms**

CNS: Central nervous system

TORCH: Toxoplasma/Rubella/Cytomegalovirus/Herpes simplex screen

PCR: Polymerase chain reaction

CMV: Cytomegalovirus infection

### **Grades of Ventriculomegaly**

10-11.9mm: mild

12-14.9mm: moderate

≥ 15mm: severe

### **Causes**

Idiopathic

Chromosomal abnormalities (esp. Trisomy21):5-17%

Genetic syndrome

Fetal CNS infections

Abnormal neuroanatomy like absent corpus callosum

Cerebral Haemorrhage

### **Evaluation**

- *Maternal serum:* TORCH and Parvovirus serology
- *Consider Amniocentesis:* Karyotype and PCR for CMV/Toxoplasmosis (if mother positive)

- *Refer to MFM, Wellington for detailed anatomy scan*

## **References**

NZMFM network: Guidelines on fetal Ventriculomegaly

Gustavo Malinger, Gianluigi Pilu. Sonography of the fetal central nervous system. In *Fetal Medicine, basic science and clinical practice*. Charles H Rodeck, Martin J Whittle (eds). Pp 387-407. Churchill Livingstone, Second edition.

## **Informed Consent**

The right of a consumer to make an informed choice and give informed consent, including the right to refuse medical treatment, is enshrined in law and in the Code of Health and Disability Consumers' Rights in New Zealand. This means that a woman can choose to decline treatment, referral to another practitioner, or transfer of clinical responsibility. If this occurs follow the process map on page 18 of the Referral Guidelines (Ministry of Health, 2012).