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Role of maternal-fetal medicine (Perinatology) in prevention of childhood diseases

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Perinatology is the study of fetus *in utero* and various interventions related thereto. Today we know the fundamental basis of many of childhood and adult diseases starts from the fetal life itself like obesity, DM, hypertension and metabolic syndrome. Maternal fetal medicine lays stress on diagnosing cases of IUGR, placental insufficiency and DM in fetal life and taking appropriate interventions as these can lead to later on development of childhood disorders. Besides this, diagnosis of majority of fetal malformations can be made at an early gestation (as early as 11-14 weeks) with the help of serum screening and genetic sonogram. This can prevent birth of a fetus with structural and chromosomal malformations. Interventions in fetal life can correct some of anomalies. In cases of Rh iso-immunization intrauterine transfusion can prevent development of hydrops and advancement of perinatology had led to improvement in outcome of twin pregnancies. So perinatology has a great role to play in prevention of many of childhood illnesses.

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