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Pediatric Cardiology

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Epidemiology of congenital heart defects

Congenital heart defects (CHD) are the most common type of birth defect, affecting approximately 8 out of 1,000 newborns. Yet there is variability in the epidemiology of congenital heart defects throughout the world, and the reported incidence and prevalence have been changing in recent decades. The developments of prenatal diagnosis; fetal therapy and termination of pregnancy and maybe changes in environmental factors too; have modified the natural history of congenital heart defects. The improvements in cardiovascular surgery and treatment techniques by catheterization have improved survival and also the quality of life of adolescents and adults with congenital heart defects. Real incidence and prevalence are, in fact, unknown in many parts of the world. There has been identification of genes in high-risk families and experimental models. Environmental risk factors and protective factors still need to be identified; in order to ultimately achieve effective primary prevention. A review on reported data is presented focusing on crucial epidemiological questions, regarding outcomes, causation and risk assessment.

Biography

Dr. Sofia Grinenco, Medicine Doctor (M.D.), is a Pediatric Cardiologist member of the Fetal Medicine Unit at Hospital Italiano Buenos Aires, professor of fetal cardiology at Fundación Hospitalaria, Council Member of the Cardiology Committee of the Argentine Society of Pediatrics (SAP), member of the Argentinian Society of Prenatal Diagnosis and Therapy (SADIPT), member of the Association for European Pediatric and Congenital Cardiology (AEPC), with several postgraduate courses on Epidemiology and Statistics and on Clinical Bioethics. Currently Dr Grinenco's researches focus on optimizing prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart defects, and on these diseases' physiopatology and intrauterine treatment.

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