

EDITORIAL***FETAL WEIGHT and WELL BEING OF A CHILD***

Dear readers,

Fetal weight is an important indicator of fetal well being universally. Birth weight of newborn is the single most important indicator of intact survival of that newborn and infant mortality rate (IMR). Assessment of fetal weight is done by various methods and tools. Most commonly used method is Ultrasonography. Assessment of fetal weight is an integral part of antenatal care. If the fetal weight is as desired, the newborn will have good weight at birth. The intervention during antenatal period and at the time of delivery is dependent on fetal weight. Low Fetal weight at delivery means Low birth weight newborn which is associated with increased risk of complications. Factors influencing fetal weight are multiple, including maternal well being, habits and nutrition. Fetal weight monitoring will also help in early detection of high risk situations and timely referral. To ensure the fetal well being and that weight is increasing as required, the pregnant woman has to take proper ANC that includes services like testing for vertical transmitted diseases, supplements and nutritional well being.

IMR and NMR are public health indicators and they represent social, economical and environmental health. Also IMR is an important component of U5MR which is a mean to measure child survival. The well being of child and intact survival starts from the day of conception. Many interventions and initiatives are implemented to ensure quality maternal and infant health to reduce preventable deaths and also focus on respectable services with zero tolerance.

There are various national programmes implemented by Government of India and Government of Gujarat for fetal and neonatal well being. It targets zero maternal and newborn deaths through initiatives like LAQSHAY, Suman, JSSK, SNCU, Dakshta etc. There are continuous efforts for strengthening of health system that transforms it into responsive, responsible and integrated referral system. However awareness and commitment from society and community participation would go a long way as a supportive measure in strengthening the maternal well being that translates into improved fetal weight.

Regards,

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