



6-8%

of all pregnancies in the US are characterized as high risk, meaning that there is a serious anomaly that may affect the life of the mother or baby during pregnancy

94%

of all pregnancies report experiencing some type of complication

200

babies die each day as a result of a fetal syndrome

17-24

weeks' gestation is when fetal syndromes are generally detected

### Pregnancy complications

According to the CDC, congenital abnormalities, which fall within the category of fetal syndromes classify a pregnancy as "high risk" and are the #1 cause of death in US infants. More than 800,000 pregnancies are affected by one of 4,000 known fetal syndrome each year. The majority of fetal syndromes have no known cause.

### Fetal health syndromes

Some of the most common fetal syndromes and their impact include:

1 / 3,000-5,000

**Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia** - need delivery at a specialized center; often unable to breathe on their own.

1 / 1,500-4,000

**Fetal Hydrops** - associated with several underlying causes; between 60-90% of babies diagnosed die before birth.

1 / 4,344

**Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS)** - left untreated, babies with this disorder die in the first few weeks of life.

1 / 5,000-7,000

**Lower Urinary Tract Obstruction (LUTO)** - the mortality rate for babies who lack treatment can be as high as 77%.

10-15% of twins

**Selective Intrauterine Growth Restriction (SIUGR)** - the mortality rate of at least one twin prior to birth is 40%.

1-3 / 10,000

**Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS)** - affects twins who share a placenta. Untreated, the survival rate is 10-15%.

### Maternal Fetal Care Centers

These centers provide coordinated care for both mother and baby before, during and after complicated pregnancies. These centers are staffed by a team of specialists including neonatologists, maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) specialists, and pediatric medical and surgical sub-specialists. Additionally, these centers have specialized equipment and tools to treat fetal health syndromes in a variety of ways, depending on the diagnosis and severity of the individual case.

### Fetal Surgery

Fetal surgery is a highly complex surgical intervention to repair birth defects while babies are still in the womb. It allows doctors to treat serious and life-threatening conditions and stop progressive damage, while also keeping the baby in utero long enough to grow and develop.

The first successful human fetal surgery case was performed in 1981 at the University of California, San Francisco. Since then, more than 5,000 fetal surgeries have been performed worldwide and new procedures are being developed annually. Today, fetal therapy is recognized as one of the most promising fields in pediatric medicine, and prenatal surgery is becoming an option for a growing number of babies with birth defects.