

# Texas Children's Fetal Center® Austin

More than 20 years ago, Texas Children's Hospital launched a program to address the needs of a fetus as it develops in the womb. Today, Texas Children's Fetal Center is a national leader in diagnosing and treating abnormalities in unborn and newborn infants. Now, we have expanded our care to Austin. Our Fetal Center is one of only a few in the nation that provides the full spectrum of fetal therapies—from diagnosis, treatment, delivery and beyond. Our team consistently delivers the highest level of care and the best outcomes to families with complex pregnancies, including those in Austin.

## Our Services

We provide comprehensive fetal evaluations and diagnostics in Austin, including echocardiograms, MRIs, and ultrasounds. Supported by our Fetal Intervention team in Houston, the Fetal Center in Austin also offers interventional therapies for various conditions.

### DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES

- Amniocentesis
- Chorionic villus sampling
- Fetal cord blood sampling (cordocentesis)
- Thoracentesis
- Vesicocentesis
- Fetal echocardiography by pediatric cardiologists
- Fetal neurosononology by MFM specialists
- Advanced fetal MRI scans

### FETAL THERAPIES

- Fetal shunt placement for pleural effusions and lower urinary tract obstructions (LUTO)
- Fetoscopic laser photocoagulation for twin-twin transfusion syndrome (TTTS), selective intrauterine growth restriction and twin anemia polycythemia sequence (TAPS)
- Intrauterine blood transfusion (IUT) for fetal anemia
- Ex-utero intrapartum treatment (EXIT)
- Fetoscopic amniotic band resection in amniotic band syndrome
- Minimally invasive treatment of placental chorioangiomas
- Treatment of fetal arrhythmias



## Personalized Care

The Fetal Center brings together a dedicated, multidisciplinary team to develop a unique, highly personalized care plan for every patient and family. We pair every family with a dedicated clinical nurse coordinator who is highly trained in the needs of patients with fetal anomalies. This service provides families with a direct link for insight and assistance, medical information and a familiar face and source of support.

## Level IV NICU

Our specialized labor and delivery unit at the North Austin campus allows families to remain with their newborn while receiving care from our Level IV NICU. Our advanced care also extends to women with low-to-moderate risk pregnancies, treating complex fetal conditions, abnormalities and unforeseen needs.

## Multidisciplinary evaluations and consultations with different pediatric subspecialists for the fetal diagnoses of

- Abdominal wall defects, including gastroschisis and omphalocele
- Bowel obstruction and atresia
- Esophageal atresia with or without tracheoesophageal fistula
- Cardiac masses
- Central nervous system anomalies, including anencephaly, encephalocele, microcephaly, macrocephaly, midline anomalies such as holoprosencephaly, posterior fossa anomalies, ventriculomegaly, anomalies of the corpus callosum, hydrocephalus and all other simple and complex anomalies.
- Spinal anomalies in the fetus including spina bifida and all neural tube defects (open and closed defects).

- Scoliosis, segmental defects, hemivertebrae and all others.
- Congenital heart disease, including heterotaxy, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, tetralogy of Fallot, atrioventricular septal defects and all other simple and complex anomalies.
- Craniofacial anomalies including cleft lip and palate, craniosynostosis, microphthalmia, congenital cataracts, hypotelorism, hypertelorism etc.
- Fetal arrhythmias, including congenital heart block, supraventricular tachycardia, atrial flutter and all others.
- Lung lesions including lung masses, congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation (CCAM), bronchopulmonary sequestration, congenital high airway obstruction (CHAOS), congenital diaphragmatic hernia, pleural effusions and all others.
- Maternal immune disorders affecting the fetus (congenital heart block, platelet alloimmunization and red cell alloimmunization).
- Neck masses including congenital goiters, teratomas and lymphangiomas.
- Gastrointestinal anomalies such as duodenal atresia, hyperechogenic bowel, meconial peritonitis, intrabdominal cysts, hepatomegaly, fetal ascites and all others.
- Non-immune hydrops
- Pericardial effusions
- Sacrococcygeal teratomas
- Skeletal dysplasias
- Urinary tract obstructions, including lower urinary tract obstructions (LUTO), bladder outlet obstruction, hydronephrosis, renal cysts, renal duplications, unilateral or bilateral renal agenesis, multicystic dysplastic kidneys and all others.
- Abnormalities in fetal genitalia such as hypospadias, ambiguous genitalia and all others.

## Refer Patients

Refer a patient by visiting [texaschildrens.org/refer](http://texaschildrens.org/refer), select Pavilion for Women, choose Texas Children's Fetal Center® from the dropdown menu and select Austin Area.

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