

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. Our Austin Fetal Center now keeps these patients closer to home. 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.

Our Services

We provide comprehensive fetal evaluations and diagnostics in Austin, including echocardiograms, MRIs, neurosonology 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 (transabdominal)
- Fetal cord blood sampling (cordocentesis)
- Thoracentesis
- Vesicocentesis
- Fetal echocardiography by pediatric cardiologists
- Fetal neurosononology by MFM specialists
- Advanced fetal MRI scans

Fetal Therapies

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

Texas Children's®
Pavilion for Women

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. Our Fetal Center experts evaluate and treat many conditions, including:

- Abdominal wall defects, including gastroschisis and omphalocele
- Amniotic band syndrome
- Bowel obstruction
- Cardiac masses
- Central nervous system lesions, including anencephaly, encephalocele, holoprosencephaly, hydranencephaly and hydrocephalus
- Complications in monochorionic twin pregnancies, including conjoined twins, selective intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR), discordant structural anomalies, twin reversed arterial perfusion (TRAP sequence or acardiac twin), twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome (TTTS) and twin anemia polycytemia sequence (TAPS)
- Congenital diaphragmatic hernia
- Congenital heart disease, including heterotaxy, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, tetralogy of Fallot, atrioventricular septal defects and all other simple and complex anomalies
- Congenital high airway obstruction syndrome (CHAOS)
- Chorioangioma
- Craniofacial anomalies (cleft lip and palate)
- Duodenal and intestinal atresia
- Esophageal atresia with or without tracheoesophageal fistula
- Fetal arrhythmias, including congenital heart block, supraventricular tachycardia, atrial flutter and all others
- Fetal chylothorax and hydrothorax
- Lung lesions
- Maternal immune disorders affecting the fetus (congenital heart block, platelet alloimmunization and red cell alloimmunization)
- Neck masses including teratomas and lymphangiomas
- Neural tube defects
- Non-immune hydrops
- Pericardial effusions
- Sacrococcygeal teratoma
- Skeletal dysplasia
- Urinary tract obstructions, including lower urinary tract obstructions (LUTO), bladder outlet obstruction and hydronephrosis

Referring a patient

Referring physicians can be confident that patients referred to Texas Children's Fetal Center® will receive the best possible fetal evaluation and treatment and that they and their families will be treated with the utmost care and compassion.

Refer a patient by visiting **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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