General description

This is a multidisciplinary conference staffed by Maternal Fetal Medicine and Neonatology and attended by the faculty, residents and medical students from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, Odessa, TX. The conference is modeled on the traditional tumor board model as described by Porter (1988) with the dual aims of:

1) Developing consensus on diagnosis and treatment
2) Education.

Conclusion

Prenatal ultrasound diagnosis of congenital anomalies in combination with multidisciplinary management provides a critical opportunity to improve patients’ care and physician education.

Potential benefits

1) Minimize unplanned delivery of a baby with complex congenital anomalies or other high risk conditions in a community setting which lack the resources to effectively provide care particularly if “out-born delivery” and neonatal transport is associated with a lower survival compared to inborn infants.

2) Improved survival and reduced disability by coordinating delivery of select high risk fetuses at the appropriate surgical site.

3) Improved system based resource utilization by avoiding the costly and risky neonatal transport of critically ill infants to a surgical center when urgent treatment is required. (Airway, Neurologic, or ductal dependent lesions)

4) Optimizing communication between the family and neonatal faculty ensuring that the plan of care is clarified for the parents, labor and delivery staff, and obstetric team when a fetus with a lethal condition is identified thus reducing the stress on all parties in this emotionally charged setting a fetus with lethal anomalies.