DIMINISHED FETAL MOVEMENTS (DFM)
Supporting information

This guideline has been prepared with reference to the following:


DFM may help identify the at-risk fetus?
A study in 435 women (Harrington, 1998) found DFM associated with low 5 minute Apgar score 0.03 vs. 0.05 expected (95% CI = 0.01, 0.05), SCBU admission, 0.06 vs. 0.07 (95% CI0.04, 0.08), preterm delivery, 0.08 vs. 0.11 (95% CI 0.05, 0.10) and caesarean section for fetal compromise, 0.07 vs. 0.053 (95% CI 0.050-0.096).


Evidence Level: IV

The evidence that intervention can improve the outcome is “less convincing”?
A Cochrane systematic review (Hofmeyr, 2012) failed to identify any suitable RCTs and concluded that “There are insufficient data from randomised trials to guide practice regarding the management of DFM. Based on the results of other systematic reviews of management strategies for women whose babies are thought to be at risk of compromise for various reasons, the following strategies show promise and may be prioritised for further research: Doppler ultrasound studies, computerised cardiotocography, and fetal arousal to facilitate cardiotocography.”


Evidence Level: I

Last amended March 2013

Not found an answer to your question? Contact bedsideclinicalguidelines@uhns.nhs.uk