

Fetal Treatment Center

At the Akron Children's D. Gary Benfield, MD, Fetal Treatment Center, we understand that pregnancy brings expectations and plans. When a potential birth defect is suspected, the journey changes. Suddenly, there is a need to see specialists, gather information and prepare care plans.

Our center offers comprehensive and compassionate care. We walk alongside families through this challenging journey, aiming for the best possible outcomes for the baby's health and the overall well-being of the entire family. We provide:

Specialized Care

Our compassionate team, comprised of maternal-fetal medicine specialists, neonatologists, pediatric surgeons, genetic counselors and sonographers, collaborates to provide personalized and comprehensive care, meeting the specific needs of both the baby and the parents with empathy and expertise.

Consultations and Education

Expectant parents receive thorough consultations and education. Our maternal-fetal medicine specialists review diagnostic tests and imaging studies, aiming for precise understanding of any suspected birth defect.

Information and Counseling

Nurturing and understanding are pivotal at our center. We offer crucial information and emotional support to parents navigating challenges. Our counseling services and educational resources aim to provide a thorough understanding of the condition, treatment options and potential outcomes.

Treatment and Intervention Planning

Upon diagnosis, our team meticulously tailors a treatment plan for the baby's unique needs. This plan may include specialized interventions during pregnancy, focused delivery care and continuous postnatal support.

Continuity of Care

We're dedicated to ensuring a seamless journey for you and your baby. From prenatal to neonatal and ongoing pediatric care, our goal is to provide consistent and unwavering support, offering both medical attention and emotional support as your child grows.

What happens during a visit?

Your appointment begins with a high-resolution ultrasound. You will then meet with the maternal-fetal medicine specialist and a genetic counselor to review the findings and answer your questions.

We explore your pregnancy and family history, explaining available testing options. For complex cases, the fetal treatment clinic day is tailored to meet your individual needs. During this single visit, you will meet our team of experts from different specialties. You will have direct conversations with the doctors who will care for your baby after birth.

Following these discussions, your personalized care plan is shared with your care providers for seamless support. We are with you at every step—guiding through follow-up appointments, facility tours, and preparations for your baby's arrival and specialized care. Your comfort and understanding drive our approach.



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Conditions we treat include:

- Abdominal wall defects, such as gastroschisis and omphalocele
- Bone anomalies, such as clubfoot, short limbs
- Brain findings, such as ventriculomegaly
- Spine defects, such as spina bifida
- Cleft lip and palate
- Diaphragmatic hernia
- Genetic disorders, including chromosomal abnormalities, metabolic disorders
- Kidney/urinary tract conditions, such as hydronephrosis, lower urinary tract obstruction (LUTO)
- Lung lesions, such as congenital pulmonary airway malformation (CPAM)
- Gastrointestinal anomalies, including duodenal atresia, abdominal cysts
- Teratomas or tumors, such as sacrococcygeal teratoma (SCT), cervical teratoma, neuroblastoma
- Heart defects
- Twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome
- Maternal conditions, which can impact pregnancy and/or delivery



Expert prenatal diagnosis and treatment

Our maternal-fetal medicine specialists have advanced training and clinical experience, and we provide seamless, coordinated care for mom and baby. Some of the tests and treatments we offer include:

- High resolution ultrasound including 3D and 4D imaging and Doppler studies
- Amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS)
- Percutaneous umbilical cord sampling
- Cell free DNA in maternal blood testing
- Advanced genetic testing and screening, including microarray, universal carrier screening
- Ultrafast MRI
- Fetal echocardiography
- In-utero fetal transfusions and pharmaceutical therapy
- Vesicocentesis and thoracocentesis
- Minimally invasive fetal therapies



Locations and Providers

akronchildrens.org/FTC

