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Congenital Heart Disease: Risk Factors, Prenatal Diagnosis, and Outcomes

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the most common prenatal defect and occurs in 1:100 babies born every year, and of these, 1:4 undergo cardiac surgery every year. Currently, more patients with serious congenital heart disease are diagnosed prenatally than postnatally. With improvements in technology, prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease of structural heart disease may occur as early as weeks 13 to 15 of gestation. With the earlier identification of congenital heart disease, prenatal treatment options are being explored. Fetal arrhythmias are diagnosed and treated prenatally and prenatal interventional cardiac procedures and their potential role in the natural history of some forms of congenital heart disease are being examined.

The focus of this Special Issue will include the present status of prenatal diagnosis and screening strategies, current research on parental support, available prenatal therapies, strategies for delivery planning and the impact of prenatal diagnosis on postnatal outcomes.

Dr. Ann Kavanaugh-Mchugh
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Special Issue