Health & Medical Sciences Volume: 2, Number 1, 2024, *Page*: 1-7

Cardiograms and Electrography Are Crucial Diagnostic Procedures In Pregnant Women

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.47134/phms.v2i1.287
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Received: 08-09-2024
Accepted: 21-10-2024
Published: 11-11-2024

Abstract: *Certain examinations place significant emphasis on the gestation period. Strictly passing every examination is of utmost importance for every woman, as failure to do so may result in the birth of children with various deformed and incapacitating disorders. The diagnostic procedures of cardiotomy, electrocardiography, ultrasonography, doppler ultrasonography, and phenocardiography are highly significant for pregnant women. Every expectant mother should undertake these tests comprehensively. The duration of pregnancy and developmental abnormalities like as hypotrophy, hydrocephaly, and microcephaly can be determined using these techniques. Furthermore, these techniques facilitate the surveillance of the foetal placenta and the estimation of the water content, particularly in cases of multiple pregnancies. Sonography examination is safe for both the pregnant woman and the developing foetus. Today, X-ray diagnostics is seldom employed. However, this approach strictly relies on the use of the vagina as the sole means of assessing the state and abnormalities of the foetus, in the absence of ultrasound equipment.*

Keywords: *Cardiotomy, Electrocardiography, Ultrasonography, Phosphatocardiography, X-Ray, Amnioscopy, Amniocentesis.*

Introduction

Antenatal assessment of the foetal heart is a crucial element in the management of high-risk pregnancies, such as those involving maternal diabetes, autoimmune illnesses, congenital heart disease, and various other maternal and foetal conditions. Pathophysiological conditions. Foetal cardiologists have mostly concentrated on the precise prenatal identification of cardiac conditions, encompassing congenital heart abnormalities, heart failure, and arrhythmias [16]. The measurement of heart rhythm using ECG is standard for a thorough postnatal cardiac assessment. Currently, foetal cardiac assessment of rhythm is restricted to foetal heart rate monitoring and echocardiographic Doppler and M-Mode techniques for evaluating atrioventricular conduction. Current methods for visualising foetal ECG waveforms including magnetocardiography, intrapartum scalp monitoring, and foetal electrocardiography (fECG) [8]. Foetal scalp monitoring is an invasive procedure restricted to the perinatal period, and is limited to measuring ST segments and heart rate variability [1]. The magnetocardiogram, while promising, is both time-consuming and costly to utilise [18].

The prospective application of a noninvasive fECG for foetal monitoring Assessment is crucial. Foetal electrocardiography employs signal-averaged electrical data acquired from a noninvasive foetal heart rate sensor to derive a conventional electrocardiogram from the foetus through algorithms akin to those utilised in foetal magnetocardiography. ECG presents the potential for a portable, a rapid and cost-effective method for obtaining electrocardiograms in neonates. Electrocardiography (ECG) holds clinical significance throughout gestation due to its ability to monitor cardiac function. Evaluation of foetal cardiac function: Foetal cardiography monitors the electrical activity of the fetus's heart, enabling physicians to determine the heart rate and identify any issues within the uterus.

Diagnosis of Foetal Heart Abnormalities: Foetal cardiography enables the early detection of cardiac anomalies in the foetus, facilitating prompt intervention. Monitoring alterations in the fetus's cardiac activity: Monitoring the foetal cardiac function throughout gestation enables physicians to detect circulatory issues and other complications early, safeguarding the health of both the mother and the infant. Surveillance of Maternal Health During Gestation Monitoring the health of both the mother and the foetus during gestation is crucial. Every condition might precipitate further complications, making accurate diagnosis and prompt intervention crucial. During pregnancy, physicians must meticulously investigate the aetiology of viral and microbial infections due to their significant impact on the foetus. Prior to administering antibiotics to a patient, it is crucial to assess their response to the medication. The indiscriminate use of potent antibiotics may diminish their efficacy in the future, perhaps hindering your recovery. Pregnant women should get regular exams to ensure their health is optimal.

Technology in Gynaecology: Its Functions Annually, medical technology systems must be assessed to ensure their accuracy and reliability in evaluation. In gynaecology, the advent of endoscopy, ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), surgical interventions, and laser therapies has significantly transformed the diagnosis and management of disorders. These technologies are essential for the advancement of medicine, and gynaecology in the 21st century is reliant on them. Healthcare professionals can promptly and efficiently address health issues during pregnancy when utilising these instruments. The integration of empirical research and theoretical knowledge enhances the intelligence of medical professionals and fosters their development into seasoned specialists. Gynaecology in the Saha tradition has long recognised the significance of these instruments, and their ongoing advancement represents the zenith of contemporary medicine. As we continue to employ novel methodologies, it is imperative that the insights gained from research are implemented effectively. This approach enables us to continually enhance our skills and provide optimal care.

Methodology

This study sought to evaluate the feasibility and precision of non-invasive foetal electrocardiography (ECG) monitoring using the Monica AN24 device in a clinical setting. Data were collected using a prospective observational method from pregnant women referred for foetal echocardiography between 16 and 42 weeks of gestation. Following informed consent, participants were monitored using fECG equipment, which was positioned in a standard configuration on the mother's belly with disposable electrodes.

The position of the foetus directed the electrode insertion; when necessary, a rapid ultrasonic evaluation verified this. Recordings lasted between five to fifteen minutes, contingent upon signal quality. The primary focus of the work was the capture and processing of foetal cardiac time intervals, specifically the PR, QRS, and RR intervals. To enhance precision, the fECG measurements were averaged across many cardiac cycles following filtration using a Butterworth bandpass filter. Cardiologists independently assessed the waveforms to confirm consistency and reliability, with inter-observer agreement quantified using the intraclass coefficient (ICC). The study excluded cases with insufficient signals. Additionally, maternal and foetal risk variables were documented to assess their potential impact on ECG signal quality.

The data analysis involved comparing cardiac intervals determined from echocardiography with those obtained from fECG, and, when accessible, postnatal electrocardiography. Statistical correlations were computed to assess the reliability and consistency of ECG measurements. The results aimed to demonstrate the benefits and limitations of non-invasive ECG monitoring in a clinical setting across various stages of gestation.

Result and Discussion

The results of this study demonstrate that non-invasive fetal electrocardiography (ECG) monitoring using the Monica AN24 device is feasible in a clinical setting, particularly between 19 and 42 weeks of gestation. Of the 60 fECG studies conducted, adequate signal-averaged waveforms were obtained in 33% of cases, with a bimodal distribution of gestational age. No interpretable data were collected between 26 and 30 weeks, which aligns with the hypothesis that increased fetal vernix during this period hampers signal acquisition. The mean gestational age for successful signal acquisition was 22.6 weeks in early gestation and 33.6 weeks in late gestation. These findings underscore the need for further technological improvements to enhance ECG signal quality, particularly during the mid-gestational period.

Statistical analysis of the data revealed high inter-observer reliability for PR (ICC = 0.89), QRS (ICC = 0.79), and RR (ICC = 0.77) intervals, indicating that the fECG device provides reproducible and consistent cardiac interval measurements. However, QT interval measurements showed poor reliability (ICC = 0.50), likely due to challenges in detecting the low amplitude of the T-wave. This result highlights a key limitation in the current fECG technology, which requires further refinement to improve the detection of ventricular repolarization and the accuracy of QT interval measurements.

The comparison between fECG and echocardiographic Doppler measurements showed good agreement for PR and RR intervals, supporting the validity of fECG as a reliable tool for assessing fetal cardiac conduction. However, no significant correlations were found between cardiac intervals and gestational age, maternal risk factors, or fetal heart rate, suggesting that these factors may not significantly affect fECG accuracy under current monitoring conditions. Future studies should expand the sample size and include a more diverse range of maternal and fetal health conditions to better understand the impact of these variables on fECG outcomes.

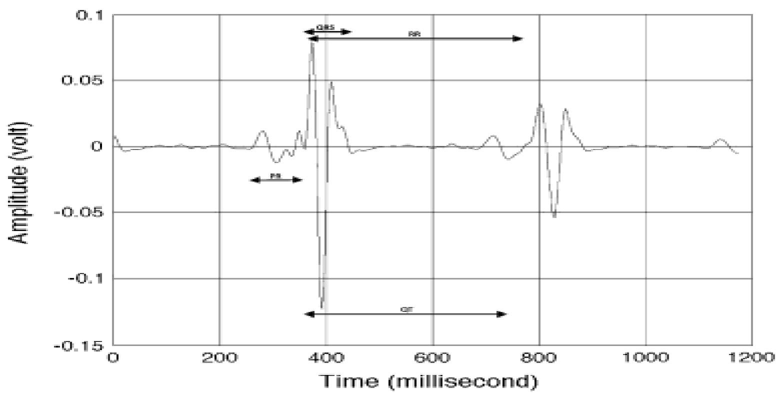

Fig. 1 Example of fECG signal-averaged waveform

The third foetus exhibited a normal sinus rhythm, with no alarming indications from foetal assessments, and genetic testing confirmed the presence of long QT syndrome. The QTc assessed using fECG for the

The QT interval of foetuses with confirmed long QT syndrome was substantially longer than that of foetuses without cardiac illness (QTc 0.514 vs. 0.494; $p = 0.041$). For Subject 6, the foetal cardiac time intervals determined via magnetocardiogram were PR 0.81, QRS 0.52, QTc 0.586, and RR 0.469 (for fECG-derived intervals, refer to Table 2).

Two foetuses were diagnosed with supraventricular tachycardia via foetal echocardiography. During the fECG, one foetus was receiving maternal flecainide therapy and exhibited normal sinus rhythm (Subject 14). The second foetus exhibited an abnormally irregular atrial rhythm at a rate of 220 beats per minute, unresponsive to digoxin and flecainide. No differences were observed in PR, QRS, or QTc between these two foetuses and those without indications of cardiac illness.

The foetal cardiac time intervals of the two foetuses with aberrant cardiac structures were compared to those of foetuses without signs of cardiac disease. Numerous distinctions were observed. Foetuses exhibiting structural cardiac abnormalities (Subjects 17 and 36) displayed markedly prolonged QRS (mean 0.112 ± 0.025 vs. 0.0911 ± 0.023) and QTc (mean 0.514 ± 0.016 vs. 0.488 ± 0.032) intervals. The foetus exhibiting right ventricular hypertrophy and pericardial effusion (Subject 17) displayed a markedly prolonged QTc interval. The foetus with pulmonary atresia and an intact ventricular septum (Subject 36) exhibited markedly prolonged QRS and QTc intervals.

The practical implications of these findings are significant for clinical practice. Non-invasive fECG monitoring offers a portable, cost-effective method for fetal cardiac evaluation, which could become a valuable tool in routine prenatal care, particularly for high-risk pregnancies. However, the limitations observed in signal acquisition during mid-gestation and the challenges with QT interval detection suggest that further technological advancements are necessary before fECG can be fully integrated into standard prenatal diagnostic protocols.

From a theoretical perspective, the study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on fetal cardiology, particularly regarding the application of non-invasive monitoring technologies. The deficiency in signal acquisition between weeks 26 and 30 is a significant domain for further investigation. Examining the fundamental physiological factors contributing to this disparity, including the function of foetal vernix in diminishing electrical signals, may yield significant insights for enhancing fECG technology. Furthermore, improvements in signal processing methods and electrode design could address the challenges in T-wave detection, ultimately augmenting the overall precision of fECG readings.

Additional research is advised to investigate the clinical applicability of fECG in a wider demographic, particularly in high-risk pregnancies with identified cardiac anomalies. Extending the study's scope to incorporate a longitudinal design, wherein fECG is conducted at various stages of gestation, will yield profound insights into the evolution of foetal cardiac conduction and its non-invasive monitoring. Ultimately, the amalgamation of fECG with additional diagnostic modalities, such as foetal echocardiography and Doppler tests, may result in a more holistic strategy for prenatal cardiac care, advantageous for both practitioners and patients.

Conclusion

Obtaining fECG tracings and measuring foetal cardiac time intervals is possible in clinical settings. Tracings are difficult to obtain with the noninvasive fECG device between 19-42 weeks GA, especially between 26-30 weeks GA. High reliability was observed in PR, QRS, and RR, but not in QT measurements. While the device can assess atrioventricular and intraventricular conduction, its utility for QT assessment is still restricted. Improvements to signal-averaged waveforms, such as T-wave amplification, are continuing. Conflict of interest The authors claim no conflict of interest. Standards of ethics All techniques in human participant studies followed institutional/national research committee ethical standards, the 1964 Helsinki Declaration, and its revisions or comparable criteria. This article does not include any animal research conducted by the authors. Informed consent All study participants gave informed consent.

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