

The symphysis-fundus height graph and fetal growth retardation: gimmick or useful clinical tool.

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The symphysis-fundus height graph and fetal growth retardation: gimmick or useful clinical tool?

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Journal article : [Journal of Tropical Pediatrics](#) 1990 Vol.36 No.1 pp.4-9

Abstract : The author has used symphysis-fundus (S-F) height graphs in Botswana for many years. He describes his own successful experience with these graphs and the work of others. The main use of the graphs has been in the recognition of uterine growth retardation (IUGR), but the author points out their additional

recognition of the abnormally large uterus (twins, large babies and hydramnion). Kennedy discusses the reliability and limitations of S-F height measurement that it is sometimes difficult (e.g. in the obese), but this does not detract from its value and consistency in most pregnant women. He emphasizes the value of this method in developing countries where more sophisticated methods of fetal growth assessment (e.g. ultrasound) are not available. He also describes how the graph can be used to assess gestational age.

[There is no doubt that S-F height graphs are a useful tool in the recognition of a fetus that is too small or too large. The method can be used satisfactorily by health workers with limited formal education, provided they have been well trained and have clear guidelines on when and how to take action. Further, it is of course possible to identify the poorly growing fetus if no facilities exist to offer special management to such a fetus. Carrying suspected growth-retarded babies.]
~ V. Jill Everett

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