



# TEACHING FOR SONOGRAPHERS:

## The Regional Training Plan

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# Detection of CHD in the UK

- National Survey 1999
- Large study almost 4800 pregnancies- overall national average rate of detection of CHD 23.4%
- Wide variation across geographical regions in the UK.
  - 10 areas with highest detection rates average of 63%
  - 10 areas with lowest detection rates average of 3%

# Local Data

- LTHT audit carried out 2005-2006 suggests average detection rate in Yorks & Humber of 28.7%
- Ranging from 0 to 66.7% in centres around the region.
- Overall detection rate approximates to the national average
  - Not approaching higher detection rates that have been achieved with education programmes

# Evidence that education improves detection rates

- An increase in detection rates from 17% to 30, 36 & 46% over consecutive years with institution of a training programme for sonographers

Hunter et al 2000

- Incorporating outlet views improved overall detection rates of major CHD to 75% with a detection rate among live-born infants of 42%

Carvalho et al, 2002

# Evidence that education improves detection rates

15 postal areas with highest  
detection rate geographically  
grouped around SE Thames area

Attributable to training and liaison  
and as a direct result of education  
programmes offered by Fetal  
Cardiologists in London area

Sharland & Allan, Br J Obstet Gynecol, 1992



Figure 3: Location of 15 postal areas with detection rates above the national average (shaded)

# Education

- Adequate training requires resources
  - Dedication and Enthusiasm of Trainers and Trainees
  - Appropriate teaching material
  - Appropriate time set aside
  - Financial resources to cover costs
- Previously in place...
  - Ad Hoc training programme run by LTHT Consultant + Sonographers
  - Went out to individual centres
  - Charged units directly to cover costs

# Combined Regional & Local training

- 1/2 day Lecture based session
  - Leeds x 2, Sheffield x 2
  - “Mop up sessions”
- Completion of online education module Fetal Medicine Foundation
- “Hands on sessions” in Local Units
- Supported by FASP



# Lecture based session

- Optimising equipment settings
- Scanning position/5 planes for Fetal heart
- Classification of CHD
  - Abnormal 4 chamber
    - L and R heart problems/ Univentricular heart
  - Abnormal outflows
  - Cardiac Muscle Abnormalities
  - Rhythm Abnormalities

# Combined Regional & Local training

- Provider Trusts subcontract and fund training for their sonographers from the specialist centre or another training source as a part of their ongoing CPD requirements.
- Requires financial commitment and agreement from all Provider Trusts
- Commissioners' support- want to commission services of the highest standard

# Combined Regional & Local training

## Benefits:

- Training material and delivery would be consistent.
- Places responsibility for funding on the Trusts providing the service.
- Requires minimum time spent training centrally.
- Allows staff to do the practical training using their own departmental equipment.
- Allows practical training to be delivered in small manageable groups.