

Fetal and Pregnancy Health Program

Fetal Spina Bifida

The Fetal and Pregnancy Health Program at Stanford Medicine Children's Health provides multidisciplinary evaluation and consultation for fetal spina bifida with maternal–fetal medicine, pediatric radiology, neonatology, perinatal genetics, pediatric neurosurgery and pediatric surgery specialists. We are the only program in California to offer multidisciplinary in-utero fetoscopic neural tube defect repair under an IRB protocol with FDA oversight, and we also offer an ongoing multispecialty surgical simulation program.

Benefits of in-utero repair	 Decreased need for postnatal ventriculoperitoneal shunt Improved lower motor function 	
Potential benefits of fetoscopic repair over open repair	 2-3 small uterine ports versus hysterotomy Potential for vaginal trial of labor Potential for longer gestation 	
Criteria for fetoscopic in-utero repair (MOMS study criteria)	 Isolated spinal lesion starting at or above S1 Chiari II malformation (cerebellar hernia into the foramen magnum) Surgery must be performed before 25 6/7 weeks 	 Normal karyotype or microarray testing Maternal BMI <35 No contraindications to in-utero surgery

Increased fluid
Displaced cerebellum

Brain Changes

Spinal cord
Spinal fluid
Myelomeningocele

SPINA BIFIDA

Post-surgery pregnancy management and delivery occurs at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, with ongoing pediatric follow-up at a designated multidisciplinary spina bifida clinic.

To refer a patient, please call (650) 724-2221.

NORMAL