

The 3rd Fetal Neurosonography Masterclass
Tel Aviv, Israel, May 2016
NF16006

The NFOG Fund generously supported part of the my expenses related to the course "The 3rd Fetal Neurosonography Materclass" which was held in Tel Aviv in May 2016 by Prof. Gustavo Malinger. I have specific interest in Fetal CNS as I am engaged in the national guideline group regarding Fetal CNS malformations, and I work in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Section of Fetal Medicine at Aalborg University Hospital.

Prof. Malinger is one of the world leading experts in Fetal Neurosonography. He has worked in the field of Fetal Neurosonography for more than 25 years and currently he is Director of OB-GYN Ultrasound Unit at Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical center, which has more than 12.000 deliveries per year. The Materclass course was an exclusive course with only 20 participants, which gave us an excellent opportunity to have fruitful discussions within the course.

The course gave a comprehensive review of the embryology of the fetal CNS and the CNS anatomy at different gestational ages. The "state of art" assessment of the fetal neural system was demonstrated with the use of ultrasound as well as magnetic resonance imaging and the pathology was illustrated by images and postmortem CNS examination. Furthermore, the neonatal prognosis was discussed with dedicated pediatric neurologists.

The course gave us an exceptional opportunity to discuss the different national strategies in dealing with fetal CNS abnormalities. These differences mainly reflect different .national legislation in regards to termination of pregnancy. Because the CNS continues to develop throughout fetal and postnatal life, the prognosis of specific brain abnormalities is difficult to predict. This prognostic uncertainty needs to be included in the counseling of the parents, and this a major challenge in Fetal Medicine.

This was my first trip to Israel, and in spite of a very intense course program we also enjoyed a very interesting excursion to Jerusalem. I walked up the "Via Dolorosa" and placed a candle at the tomb of Jesus Christ. In the evening we had dinner in a lively restaurant in the old part of Jerusalem, with everybody sharing plates and dancing to local music. In every way this was a very memorable course, and I feel highly privileged that the NFOG Fund gave me the opportunity to participate.

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