

Fetal Endoscopy

An endoscope is a device consisting of a tube that contains flexible optic (light) fibres.

For fetal endoscopy, the tube is inserted into the uterus to allow the doctor to examine the baby more closely. The picture may be viewed on a video screen.

There are some rare complications of pregnancy that may be improved with the use of endoscopic procedures:

1. Laser surgery on the placenta in severe, early cases of Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS).
2. Cord occlusion in acardiac twins where death of one twin is inevitable and if left untreated would put the co-twin at risk of death or brain damage. Umbilical cord ligation, a minimally invasive operative technique that ties off the umbilical cord of the acardiac twin, increasing the chance of survival of the normal twin to 70-80%.
3. Division of amniotic bands which constrict a limb and if left untreated, would result in amputation.
4. Identification or clarification of rare fetal anatomical problems, where the diagnosis is unclear.