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Pediatric Anesthesia

FETAL HYPOGLYCEMIA Because of the potentially serious nature of neonatal hypoglycemia (convulsions and death), a study of fetal blood glucose levels during maternal labor was made. Fetal hypoglycemia was defined as a blood glucose concentration of less than 40 mg per cent. This occurred in association with four conditions: retardation in fetal growth, pre-eclampsia, accidental hemorrhage, and maternal hypoglycemia. Two of the eight fetuses with hypoglycemia were stillborn. Fetal blood glucose levels were not related to fetal blood P_{O_2} or base excess. Fetal base excess was not altered after injection of 50 g glucose into the mother. The injection of glucagon, one mg, into the fetal scalp increased fetal blood glucose levels to above maternal levels. (*Phillips, L., and others: Fetal Hypoglycemia, Amer. J. Obstet. Gynec. 102: 371 (Oct.) 1968.*)