



WORLD FEDERATION FOR ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY

www.wfumb.org

January 8, 2013

Dear Friends,

The WFUMB Safety Committee has been working hard to try and unify some of the many safety statements on ultrasound published by different organisations around the world. The idea behind this initiative is to ensure we all speak with the same voice where safety is concerned and to try and avoid the confusion that many similar but subtly different statements can cause. One of our first successes has been to agree on a joint statement with ISUOG on the use of Doppler ultrasound in the first trimester of pregnancy as follows:

WFUMB/ISUOG Statement on the Safe Use of Doppler Ultrasound During 11-14 week scans (or earlier in pregnancy)

1. Pulsed Doppler (spectral, power and color flow imaging) ultrasound should not be used routinely.
2. Pulsed Doppler ultrasound may be used for clinical indications such as to refine risks for trisomies.
3. When performing Doppler ultrasound, the displayed Thermal Index (TI) should be less than or equal to 1.0 and exposure time should be kept as short as possible (usually no longer than 5-10 minutes) and not exceed 60 minutes.
4. When using Doppler ultrasound for research, teaching and training purposes, the displayed TI should be less than or equal to 1.0 and exposure time should be kept as short as possible (usually no longer than 5-10 minutes) and not exceed 60 minutes. Informed consent should be obtained.
5. In educational settings, discussion of first trimester pulsed or color Doppler should be accompanied by information on safety and bioeffects (e.g. TI, exposure times, and how to reduce the output power).
6. When scanning maternal uterine arteries in the first trimester, there are unlikely to be any fetal safety implications as long as the embryo/fetus lies outside the Doppler ultrasound beam.

Approved by WFUMB Administrative Council, January 27, 2011.

This text is identical to that in the statement published by AFSUMB, AIUM, BMUS, EFSUMB and JSUMB

Since we agreed to this statement with ISUOG, several of our member federations and other societies (AFSUMB, AIUM, BMUS, EFSUMB and JSUMB) have adopted the same statement as their own. We feel that the statement would carry even more weight if all our constituent Federations were also to adopt this statement, and by this letter I would like to ask if your Federation would consider also adopting it. Thank you.

Best Wishes,

David Evans
WFUMB Secretary

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