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Son yıllarda ultrasonografinin obstetrikte kullanımı giderek artmakta ve yeni yapılan çalışmalar doğum eylemi yönetiminde sonografinin önemini ortaya koymaktadır. Ultrason cihazlarının yüksek çözünürlüklü, gerçek zamanlı, portatif, kolay ulaşılabilir olması doğum salonunda da kullanım avantajı sağlamaktadır. Günümüzde antepartum sonografi fetal biyometride, fetal anatominin değerlendirilmesinde, tahmini fetal ağırlık tahmininde, fetal prezentasyonun belirlenmesinde, çoğul gebelikleri, plasentanın konumunu, indüksiyon öncesi serviksi değerlendirmede, operatif doğumun başarısını ve indüksiyon başarısını öngörmede, amniyotik sıvı volümünü değerlendirmede, doppler ultrasonografide yaygın olarak kullanılmaktadır.

Ultrason yüksek frekanslı dalgaların doku ara yüzeyine rastladıktan sonra oradan yansıması, kırılması, zayıflaması veya emilmesi prensibine dayanmaktadır. Obstetrik görüntüleme için 3 ile 7 Mhz'lık (megahertz) mekanik titreşim gereklidir <sup>(1)</sup>. Yansıyan ultrason dalgaları prob tarafından alınır, işlenir ve bir görüntü oluşturulur. Obstetrik ultrasonda görüntüler yansısız dalgayla dokudan proba gelen yansıma arasındaki gecikmeyi ölçen puls-eko yöntemi ile elde edilir. Tanısal ultrasonun belirgin zararlı etkileri olmaksızın geniş ölçüde güvenli olduğu düşünülmektedir <sup>(2)</sup>. AIUM (The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine) 'halen ultrasonun kanıtlanmış biyolojik etkileri olmamasına rağmen bu biyolojik etkilerin gelecekte tanımlanabilme olasılığı mevcuttur' şeklinde belirtmektedir <sup>(3)</sup>.

Ultrasonografi I. Dünya Savaşı sırasında denizaltılarını bulmak için kullanılmaya başlanmış, yumuşak doku ultrasonografisi üzerine yapılan tıbbi çalışmalar, 1940'ların sonunda ve 1950'lerin başında Amerika Birleşik Devletleri'nde yapıl-

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