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### Obstetrics

**FETAL MONITORING AND CHROMOSOMAL DAMAGE** Continuous monitoring of the fetal heart rate utilizing ultrasound has become increasingly popular. According to this study, ultrasound radiation at diagnostic frequencies and power levels used clinically produce no chromosomal damage. Leukocytes obtained from blood of ten mothers and cord blood of the newborn infants were cultured

and scored for chromosomal damage after two to ten hours of monitoring fetal heart rates during labor. When the irradiated samples were compared with controls, no increase in chromosomal damage was found. (Watts, P. L., and Stewart, C. R.: *The Effect of Fetal Heart Monitoring by Ultrasound on Maternal and Fetal Chromosomes*. *J. Obstet. Gynecol. Br. Comm.* 79: 715, 1972.)