



Clinical Training: Identifying and Diagnosing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs)

OVERVIEW

Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause a range of birth defects and developmental disabilities, known collectively as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD); including fetal alcohol syndrome (FASD). As with all human teratogens, the impact of maternal drinking is difficult to recognize.

Factors include the following:

- The specific manifestations are affected by the dosage and timing of the exposure; as well as other fetal/maternal factors.
- There is no known safe amount or safe time to drink during pregnancy.
- The ability to predict the effect of a given alcohol exposure is not straight forward.

The Great Lakes FASD Regional Training Center (GLFRTC) provides clinical training opportunities for physicians, medical students, nurses and other healthcare providers to increase their understanding and skills to identify, diagnosis, and refer patients affected by prenatal alcohol exposure.

For more information, including arranging clinical training, contact the GLFRTC.

CLINICAL TRAINING MODELS

One-on-one Skills Training

Those with prior knowledge (an online FASD tutorial is available) can participate in a clinical assessment with a patient suspected of having an FASD; including:

- Conducting an *Alcohol Exposure History*
- *Assessing for Potential Growth Effects*
- *Measurements/Assessment for Morphologic Facial Features Consistent with Prenatal Alcohol Exposure*

Small Group Training

More comprehensive content information, along with skills training, can be provided in a small group training. A 2—4 hour training can include the following:

- *Foundations of FASD*
- *Criteria for Screening, Diagnosis and Referral*
- *Practice Sessions (measuring/assessing morphologic facial features)*

The clinical trainings are provided by David Wargowski, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Genetics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

