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## The placenta in fetal congenital heart disease

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## STELLINGEN

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# The placenta in fetal congenital heart disease

1. Placental development is influenced by shared developmental pathways of the heart and the placenta (*this thesis, Chapter 3 and 4*)
2. Placental function contributes to adverse pregnancy outcomes in fetal congenital heart disease (*this thesis, Chapter 8*)
3. Management of pregnancies with fetal congenital heart defects should include regular ultrasonographic assessment of fetal growth and placental function (*this thesis, Chapter 6 and 8*)
4. Future studies should employ full RNA sequencing and DNA methylation analyses to identify key genes and molecular pathways linked to fetal congenital heart disease and abnormal placentation (*this thesis, Chapter 5*)
5. The intricate relationship between fetal heart development, growth, and placental development is a critical knowledge gap that demands further investigation
6. Animal models are needed to address the knowledge gaps in this field (*this thesis, Chapter 9*)
7. Despite its crucial role at the beginning of life, the placenta is one of the most undervalued organs in medical science
8. Physicians should emphasize the importance of placental pathology examination and encourage parents to provide consent to these non-invasive examinations
9. Childbirth doesn't follow office hours
10. Efficiency is key

Maartje Catharina Snoep  
Leiden, 23 september 2025