


Birth Weight Reference Percentiles by Gestational Age for Turkish Twin Neonates

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In their interesting study, Yalin Imamoglu et al.¹ created up-to-date, twin-specific birth weight nomograms for both genders that could serve as a reference for the neonatologists and pediatricians in Turkey to detect high-risk neonates and fetuses who require specialized health care. Yalin Imamoglu et al.¹ addressed few study limitations. I assume that the following methodological limitation might affect the clinical relevance of the constructed nomograms. Among many determinants, parental ethnicity is an important determinant of birth weight, gestational age, and fetal growth in twin pregnancies.² Birth weight nomograms for twins have been generated for certain multi-ethnic populations.³⁻⁴ Throughout its history, the land of Turkey has welcomed many ethnic groups and cultures. Modern Turkey was established on the land of the Ottoman Empire and took over a complex, rich multi-ethnic and multi-cultural structure.⁵ Regrettably, in the study methodology, Yalin Imamoglu et al.¹ didn't consider the ethnic background of the studied population. Hence, this limitation might curb the employment of the created nomograms in clinical and research settings.

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AUTHORS' RESPONSE

Re: Birth Weight Reference Percentiles by Gestational Age for Turkish Twin Neonates

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We have read with interest the letter pertaining to the ethnicity of our patients. We appreciate that ethnicity is an important demographic factor in the growth and development of infants and twins. Furthermore, the population in Turkey consists of people from many ethnic backgrounds. However, these ethnicities have merged for a very long time, and the current Turkish population has become a mixture of ethnicities. There are some people from minor ethnic groups, but we think that these people could not reach statistical significance to affect the results of our study. These ethnicities are not clear-cut as these are between Caucasian and Black people; hence, we considered that the people living in Turkey represent a rather homogenous

population, distinct from Black, Chinese, Hispanic, Arab, and African people. Moreover, we did not include patients from other countries, including immigrants from Syria, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and other Middle Asian countries, as well as Russians and people from European Countries. The same holds true for other studies that have been conducted in Turkey on various parameters and even growth charts for singletons.^{1,2} Even in the study by Premkumar et al., the subjects have been classified as Taiwanese and foreigners, without any mention of ethnicity.³ For practical purposes, we think that our nomograms may be used and would give better information than other nomograms that have been developed in other countries and in other ethnicities. Further studies with a larger series may yield better results.

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