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S.A.D. SYNDROME: THE LAST GREAT MYSTERY OF OBSTETRICS

“Normal babies are dying needlessly during maternal sleep,” says Jason H. Collins, M.D, “and I truly believe that some of these babies don’t have to die.” Dr. Collins is an obstetrician of twenty years and has been researching Sudden Antenatal Death (S.A.D.) Syndrome for a decade.

More than **30,000** babies are stillborn in the United States every year. Research by the Pregnancy Institute indicates that S.A.D. Syndrome, secondary to umbilical cord accidents, of full term infants accounts for more than 4,000 of these deaths. Yet the cause of another 50-60% of the 30,000 stillborn babies is unknown. “This is a devastating event because the babies are normal but died,” says Collins. The autopsy findings on S.A.D. babies usually result in a diagnosis of undeterminable, leaving the family with many unanswered questions. “This results in unrelenting guilt and anxiety,” says Joanne Cacciatore, Director of the MISS Foundation, a group dedicated to providing counseling and support to the survivors of infant death.

Dr. Collins has interviewed more than 300 stillbirth families in his research. The research has indicated a succinct pattern resulting in his working theory that some fullterm, unexplained stillbirth may be related to fetal-maternal sleep and its effects on a baby in utero. It can also affect infants during childbirth and in the early postpartum period. Collins points out that his research is likely to reveal many enigmas associated with early stillbirth and S.A.D. Syndrome. For more information on S.A.D. Syndrome, contact the MISS Foundation at www.misschildren.org.

