A case of multiple fetal cardiac rhabdomyomas

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Objective

Rhabdomyoma is the most common prenatally diagnosed cardiac tumour. Rhabdomyomas appear on echocardiography as round, homogeneous, hyperechogenic intramural or intracavitary masses mostly involving the ventricles and can occur at multiple sites. Depending on the location and size, they may cause arrhythmia, hydrops, a haemodynamically significant obstruction, congestive heart failure, or fetal death. However they generally tend to regress and are well tolerated by the fetus.

Methods

We reported a case of multiple fetal cardiac rhabdomyomas, spontaneously regressed in postnatal period without complicating the pregnancy and the well-being of the neonate.

Results

A 35 year old primigravid patient referred to our clinic at 35 weeks' of gestation for intracardiac echogenic masses. Fetal echocardiography revealed homogeneous, solid, multiple echogenic masses within the both ventricles. The fetal heart rhythm was normal and there was no evidence of pericardial effusion or ascites. Fetal aortic and umbilical artery doppler studies were appropriate for the gestational age. Close follow-up of the fetus performed until the delivery and serial echochardiographies revealed that the rhabdomyomas persisted, remaining the same size and there was no any signs of cardiac disorder. The patient was delivered by caesarean section at 38 weeks and during the postnatal period, masses tended to regress without any complications and close follow up is still going on for the baby.

Conclusion

We presented a case of multiple fetal intracardiac rhabdomyomas without any complications both in prenatal and postnatal period. However, as cardiac rhabdomyomas are associated with the long-term development of tuberosclerosis, close follow-up and careful evaluation is essential in such cases.