Outcome of fetuses with short long bones
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Objective
To study the outcome of fetuses with short long bones seen during any period of gestation.

Methods
Retrospective analysis of 70 cases of fetuses with short long bones diagnosed during various gestational age periods was undertaken between August 2005 to October 2013. Twin gestations were excluded. Fetuses diagnosed with non-lethal skeletal dysplasia were followed by serial ultrasound examinations. Karyotyping was offered to all mothers with fetuses diagnosed to have short long bones. Clinical examination and radiographs of the neonates or abortus was advised to all parents.

Results
In the 70 pregnancies there were 29 terminations (8 with associated fetal defects, 14 lethal skeletal dysplasias detected based on thoracic/abdomen circumference being less than 80%, 2 each of non lethal skeletal dysplasia and isolated short long bones, 2 focal femoral hypoplasia ), 4 intrauterine deaths, 2 neonatal deaths, 2 still births, 7 lost for follow up, 4 are ongoing pregnancies and birth weight of all 22 live births was < 3 Kg.

Conclusion
Short long bones were observed in lethal and non lethal skeletal dysplasia, genetic syndromes, fetuses with growth restriction, chromosomal abnormalities and also in constitutionally small babies. In majority of the patients a series of antenatal investigations including serial growth scans, Uterine artery Doppler screening, fetal karyotyping, genetic testing can be performed to differentiate constitutionally small babies from those with skeletal dysplasias and chromosomally abnormal babies. This will help in counseling the parents regarding the exact nature of the problem and also assess the recurrence risks.