

## Placental surface cyst on a second-trimester ultrasonographic evaluation

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### Objective

We present a case of a placental surface cyst that was discovered on midtrimester routine examination in a pregnancy complicated with maternal hypothyroidism.

### Methods

Case report. she had a singleton intrauterine pregnancy with a normal and active fetus with measurements consistent with 28 weeks' gestation.

### Results

A 29-year-old woman gravida 2 para 1 was followed up in our clinic regarding maternal hypothyroidism. She was taking oral 0, 1 mg levothyroxine once a day for hypothyroidism. Her free T4 free T3 and TSH levels were normal from beginning of the pregnancy. In the routine second-trimester ultrasound examination at 28 weeks' gestation we discovered a 'complex' cystic mass was about 3, 5 cm in diameter within the amniotic fluid close to the umbilical cord insertion into the placenta. There was a 'cyst in the cyst' image. (Figure 1). The umbilical cord looked normal. Fetal growth and Doppler studies were also normal. Color flow Doppler ruled out any vascular involvement within the cyst (Figure 2). The remaining ultrasonographic findings were normal. She underwent cesarean section at 39 weeks for previous cesarean section history. A baby boy was delivered with APGAR score of 8 and 10, weighing 3800 grams. Morphologic evaluation demonstrated a normal trivascular cord. No knot or tear was seen. On the fetal surface of the placenta a fluid-filled cyst was found located adjacent to, but independent from, the cord insertion. Interestingly there was a separate amniotic membrane that was arising from the the cystic area. (Figure 3 and 4). This cyst measured 3 × 3. 5 × 2. 5 cm and had a centrally located laminated thrombus filled in with fibrin (Figure 5). Pathologic examination of the placenta was performed and extensive subchorionic fibrin deposits were reported.

### Conclusion

Cystic masses arising from the fetal surface of the placenta are known by different terms, including "subchorionic cysts," "chorionic cysts," and "membranous cysts". They are seen extremely rarely. The importance of these cysts is not well known. They may be simple or complex. Generally, the pregnancy outcome is normal.