Fetal cataract: in utero manifestations of cryptic disease
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Objective
Congenital cataract is a rare developmental malformation of the eye, scarcely reported in utero. In this report we review our experience and propose an antenatal evaluation in cases diagnosed with congenital cataract.

Methods
Pregnancies with antenatally ultrasound diagnosis of fetal cataract were retrospectively identified. Ultrasonographic evaluation of fetal eyes included intraocular anatomy and biometry. Data regarding gestational age at diagnosis, additional fetal malformations, serology and fetal karyotype were collected.

Results
During ten years overall, 8 cases with antenatal identification of fetal cataract were reviewed. Diagnosis ranged from 11-34 week’s gestation, with a mean of 15 weeks. Extraocular anomalies were demonstrated in 6 cases (mainly central nervous system, cardiac and renal system). Additional intraocular abnormalities were detected in two cases; one with persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous (PVPH) and one with bilateral retinal detachment. All cases but one involved cataract in both eyes. The case of a unilateral cataract was associated with microphthalmic aphakia. All cases had negative serology for TORCHs. Seven out of eight cases were terminated. The only one who survived developed in utero cataract secondary to maternal steroids therapy. He underwent bilateral cataract extraction during the first weeks of life and ophthalmologic evaluation at 2 years of age was unremarkable, without any visual impairment.

Conclusion
In most cases, fetal cataract was associated with additional abnormalities, both intra- and extra-ocular. In cases of isolated cataract, we suggest a detailed and thorough in utero ophthalmic examination in order to improve antenatal parental counselling.