



A case report of a Jehovah's Witness with placenta praevia and previous caesarean section

Zahumensky J, Klepanec A
University hospital Trnava, Trnava, Slovakia

Objective

Placenta praevia in a uterus with a caesarean section scar is associated with abnormal placentation with high risk of massive blood loss at delivery. This can be very problematic to women who declined transfusions of blood products because of religious beliefs.

Methods

Case report.

Results

We present a case of a 29 year old woman with placenta praevia and a previous caesarean section. Because of her religious beliefs, she declined transfusions of blood products even in case of a life threatening situation. USG and MRI imaging showed controversial results in determining pathological placentation. We decided to perform a planned caesarean section at the end of 35 weeks gestation with assistance of interventional radiology. Balloon-tipped catheters were placed in both internal iliac arteries immediately before the caesarean section and inflated after delivery to occlude pelvic blood flow. The operation was carried out without complications and the estimated blood loss was 400 ml.

Conclusion

Interventional radiology can reduce the risk of massive blood loss in high-risk cases and the need of blood derivatives, especially for persons refusing transfusions.