Objective
This was a prospective 3-year study on perinatal conventional autopsies performed in a tertiary center. We assessed the correlation between the prenatal diagnosis and fetal/neonatal autopsy results.

Methods
Cases of fetal/neonatal death or termination for abnormality were included in the study. The cases included fetuses at 13–42 weeks' gestation and also deceased newborns. The inclusion criteria was that both prenatal assessment and autopsy must be performed in our institute. Fetuses/neonates perinatal autopsies' results were compared in terms of diagnostic information and clinical significance. Ancillary investigations (radiographs, computed tomography and tissue histology) were used.

Results
A total of 67 cases were assessed. In 21 cases, the autopsy provided superior diagnostic structural information to that of the prenatal diagnosis. In 18 cases the ultrasound (US) provided superior diagnostic information to that of conventional autopsy, when the size of fetus (specimen below 16 weeks GA) and autolysis prevented the examination of specimen. In the remaining cases, autopsy and US provided equivalent diagnostic information. The conventional autopsy provided information with equivalent clinical significance in most cases. The additional microscopy information was absent. The main US diagnosis was confirmed in the majority of the pregnancies. No complete lack of agreement between the two methods was observed.

Conclusion
There is a gap in information between the US and the autopsy results of early pregnancy, the latter being critically dependent on the gestational age at termination. Thus, there is a need for the development of an alternative post-mortem examination methods. Although in some cases autopsy provided additional information, its value in the investigation of fetal/neonatal death does not surpass the prenatal diagnostic methods. The utility of adding microscopic investigation remains unproven in our case series. In the majority of cases, postmortem conventional autopsy combined with ancillary investigations provided information of equal clinical significance as the prenatal diagnosis.