Spontaneous umbilical cord hematoma - case report.

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Introduction

Umbilical cord haematoma is a rare cause for still births with a reported rate of around 1:5500. The causes for development of umbilical cord haematoma are varied such as infections, twisting and traction of cord, true knots, vessel wall abnormalities, umbilical cord cysts, trauma, post term and many remain unexplained. Cord haematomas can arise during pregnancy which can lead to foetal death or may occur during labour giving rise to foetal distress as evidenced by cardiotocographic (CTG) abnormalities. Case reports of cord haematomas giving rise to foetal heart rate abnormalities in labour have been reported. Rupture of umbilical vein accounts for the majority of the haematomas and in around 10% umbilical artery ruptures.

Case report

36-year old patient was admitted to our Unit due to gestational diabetes G2 in 38 wks of pregnancy. Pregnancy time despite gestational diabetes was normal. Patient has no comorbidities. During a routine CTG a deceleration was present. Patient was qualified for emergency cesarean section. 4110g baby girl was delivered with 10 points Apgar. On the middle portion of umbilical cord a hematoma was present. Histopathological finding confirmed rupture of umbilical vein.

Discussion

Umbilical hematoma is a rare condition occurring in the late pregnancy and labor. In 50% of cases fetal death is caused as a result of anoxia due to compression of foetal vessels by the haematoma or by exsanguination of fetal blood. Only close monitoring and rapid cesarean section prevented intrauterine stillbirth. Further case reports would help to clarify this interesting issue.