A case of cystic hygroma

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Objective
To present a case of prenatally diagnosed hygroma colli and shed light on the importance of 3D sonography as part of the first trimester screening.

Methods
This is a case report.

Results
Cystic hygroma is known to be a congenital malformation of the lymphatic system. It can be detected on prenatal ultrasonography from the end of first trimester. Cystic hygroma is frequently found to be associated with chromosomal aberrations. The prognosis depends on the size of cystic hygroma, on fetal karyotype and the presence of associated anomalies. We present a case from our medical records. Our patient presented for routine first trimester ultrasound screening at 13 weeks of gestation. On the transverse section of the neck a cystic hygroma could be seen as massive paracervical bilateral masses as a consequence of jugular lymphatic obstructive sequence. We noted the typical septated appearance, presence of skin edema and an intact skull. After surgical termination of the pregnancy an abnormal karyotype was revealed by cytogenetic analysis.

Conclusion
We would like to point out the importance of first trimester ultrasonography in early diagnosis of cystic hygromas. The association with abnormal karyotype frequently results in the termination of pregnancy.