



Nonimmune Hydrops Fetalis: Ultrasound diagnosis in patients with systemic autoimmune diseases

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Objective

To present a case of prenatal detection of fetal hydrops due to maternal systemic autoimmune diseases and the general role of first trimester ultrasound screening in diagnosis of fetal anomalies.

Methods

This is a case report.

Results

There is a variety of fetal complications associated with maternal systemic autoimmune diseases such as fetal hydrops, fetal loss, preterm birth, intrauterine death and heart block in SLE. A patient with systemic autoimmune disease presented for routine first trimester screening. Ultrasound confirmed an intrauterine gestation and a gestational age of 9 weeks and 1 day, but unfortunately no fetal heart activity could be detected. Generalized fetal hydrops with accumulation of fluid in the abdomen was noted. The placenta showed normal morphology. After appropriate counselling the couple opted for termination of the pregnancy. After the surgical procedure autopsy revealed an abnormal fetal karyotype.

Conclusion

The presented case points out the important role of routine first trimester ultrasound screening in early detection of severe fetal abnormalities, such as fetal hydrops in patients with systemic autoimmune disease.