A case of amniotic band syndrome
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Objective
Amniotic band syndrome (ABS) is a rare congenital malformation. Fibrous bands wrap around fetus body parts and may cause constriction, vascular compression or even amputation. Amniotic band syndrome manifests itself with various deformations of fetal limbs, head or trunk. In the most severe cases amniotic band syndrome can lead to lethal conditions.

Methods
We report an amniotic band syndrome diagnosed at 13 weeks in a 23 years old primigravida who has been admitted to the university hospital due to fetal defects. An ultrasound examination revealed hyperechogenic strands floating freely in amniotic fluid. The strand were attached to the fetal body. The fetus presented severe body malformations like defects of the abdominal wall and the fetal spine. We observed liver, stomach, intestines and heart which were outside of the abdominal cavity. The pregnancy was terminated.

Results
All defects observed in the prenatal ultrasound were confirmed in an autopsy. Additionally we found much more thin strands attached to the fetal body. Fingers and toes were partly amputated.

Conclusion
Prenatal ultrasound examination is a useful tool in detecting the amniotic band syndrome in early gestation. We have proven that ABS may cause lethal deformations.