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CMV infection: a case of failure to diagnose congenital CMV infection in the amniotic fluid by PCR

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Objective

To report a case of congenital CMV infection in which the amniotic fluid PCR was falsely reassuring.

Methods

This is a case report.

Results

A 35-year-old pregnant woman G2P1 with suspected CMV infection had a serologic assay for IgM and IgG antibody, during the first trimester of the pregnancy. The IgM antibody was positive and the IgG antibody was negative and the avidity of IgG antibody for the virus was low, indicating acute maternal CMV infection. Amniocentesis performed at 23 weeks gestation to assess for viral presence in the amniotic fluid by PCR, was negative. We continued to examine the fetus every four weeks during pregnancy. All the scans were normal. The newborn had normal brain and abdominal ultrasounds. Post-natal blood testing for CMV were Ig-G reacting only, but urine PCR was positive and the diagnosis of congenital CMV infection was made. The baby is still asymptomatic, 10 months after the delivery.

Conclusion

The possibility of false negative CMV testing in the amniotic fluid should be considered when there is clinical suspicion of congenital CMV infection.