REPORT ON A PRENATAL PULMONARY EMPHYSEMA

INTRODUCTION

Congenital lobar emphysema is a pulmonary malformation characterized by an overdistension of the air spaces of one or more lobes or lung segments, accompanied by compression and displacement of adjacent structures. Its main location is at the level of the left upper lobe (40-60%). It has a prevalence of between 1 / 20,000 and 1 / 30,000 pregnancies. Its etiopathogenesis is difficult to determine and only one apparent cause is found in more than 50% of cases: the most diagnosed is obstructive (25%) which, in turn, can be intrinsic or extrinsic.

Objective

Report on a prenatal pulmonary emphysema

Material and methods

A descriptive study of a case of prenatal pulmonary emphysema diagnosis.

MRI

CASE REPORT

A 27-year-old woman, 21 + 2 weeks pregnant, with no relevant medical history, who during the second-trimester ultrasound is located at the fetal thoracic level, a hyperechoic image that displaces the cardiac silhouette. After this finding it was decided to perform an MRI to identify the lesion, establishing congenital lobar emphysema as the first diagnostic possibility. With pediatrics and pediatric surgery, the diagnosis, different evolutions and possible prognoses, is explained to the patient. The pregnant woman decides to continue with pregnancy.

Conclusions

Congenital lobar emphysema is a rare fetal anomaly. It can be identified from 18 weeks, presenting on ultrasound as a hyperechogenic lesion at the thoracic level, which can displace the mediastinum, causing, in turn, contralateral atelectasis. Although its clinical presentation can be very variable, from death by fetal hydrops to patients who remain asymptomatic for years, in most cases it is usually a chance finding that evolves towards resolution.