Fetal hydrothorax with spontaneous resolution
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Objective
Fetal hydrothorax is a rare congenital anomaly affecting 1 in 10 000 pregnancies worldwide, that has no clear underlying cause such as structural or chromosomal abnormalities. This condition can resolve spontaneously or have life-threatening clinical course.

Methods
We present a case of a unilateral fetal pleural effusion identified at 31 weeks of gestational age.

Results
A 40 year-old (G3P2) at 18 weeks of gestational age was diagnosed with gestational diabetes and was referred to a perinatology center at 20 weeks. The fetal ultrasound showed intrauterine fetal growth restriction (IUGR). Due to IUGR, woman was followed up every 2 weeks and at 31 weeks of gestational age an non echogenic fluid collection of 9.1 mm was identified in the right lung. No other structural abnormalities or signs of hydrops were observed. Fetal biometry was compatible with gestational age. Echocardiography revealed normal cardiac dimensions. Doppler evaluation of the peak systolic velocity (PSV) in the middle cerebral artery (MCA) was within normal range. Screening for congenital infections was negative. Complete blood cell count, blood type and antibody screening ruled-out immune hydrops. In addition, the patient had undergone amniocentesis at 16 weeks of gestation with the results being negative for trisomies 13, 18, 21. Serial ultrasound re-evaluations showed a progressive volume decrease and at the 35th week there was total resolution of the effusion. However, due to IUGR (AC < 3 percentile) delivery was induced at 38 weeks of gestational age by oral prostaglandins. A live female infant was born weighing 2820 g, with no need of ventilator support. Spontaneous regression has been reported to occur in up to 22% of primary fetal hydrothorax. There are no specific predictive factors that would provide a better prognosis of the condition.

Conclusion
In cases of small to moderate unilateral pleural effusions without any other complications, it is feasible to continue pregnancy without any intervention because spontaneous resolution might occur.