Amniotic band syndrome - case report ID 3586

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Objective

Amniotic band syndrome (ABS) is a disease of uncertain etiology. The incidence is 1:200 to 1:15000 live births. Clinical manifestation depends on anatomic location of the bands, when bands affecting extremities can lead to amputation or pseudosyndactyly, while broad bands lead to limb-body wall complex. The hypothetical ischemic event is considered as a possible cause. This condition can be associated with cardiac anomalies, genitourinary anomalies, and other visceral anomalies, that are difficult to explain. Generally, the defects resulting form ABS are categorized into four categories: neural tube-like defects, craniofacial anomalies, limb anomalies, and constrictive bands.

Pict.2,3 Postpartum images

Case report

24-year old patient was admitted to our Unit in 25 weeks of gestation due to suspicion of preterm delivery. During a routine ultrasonographic scan an edema on the right forearm was noticed with sharp indentation of the skin. The circulation of the distal part of the hand was visualized using Color Doppler. A suspicion of amniotic band syndrome was suggested. Patient was sent to the reference center for fetoscopic surgery. The constrictive ring on the right forearm was present. Patient delivered in 31wks of gestation a 1550 grams baby. After delivery a necrosis of skin in place of indentation was seen. The hand movement was preserved. Patient is now under supervision of orthopedic and surgical care. Further follow-up is missing.

Conclusion

The amniotic band syndrome is manifested in many ways and the outcome depends on anatomic location of the band. The anomalies are related to the mechanical deformation that the band creates, although the etiology remains unclear. In our case the possibility of presence of a band that could be treated with fetoscopy was strong, instead of that, a constrictive band of the right forearm was diagnosed. Although, it should be kept in mind, that extremities are the most frequent amniotic involved, when diagnosed early, are amenable to fetoscopic band release.