

## Subsequent pregnancy outcomes after open in utero spina bifida repair

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### Objective

Prenatal fetal spina bifida (SB) repair is one therapeutic option in selected cases. Since this procedure is not only associated with short-term complications the aim of this study was to assess the outcomes of subsequent pregnancies after open fetal SB repair.

### Methods

138 patients having had open fetal SB repair at our center received a questionnaire regarding the occurrence, course and outcome of subsequent pregnancies. Additionally, medical records were reviewed. All subsequent pregnancies with complete outcome data that progressed beyond 20 gestational weeks (GW) were included for further analysis.

### Results

All 29 pregnancies progressing >20 GW ended in live births without preterm births < 34<sup>th</sup> GW. Mean gestational age at delivery was  $37.3 \pm 1.4$  GW. Uterine rupture occurred in two cases (6.9%) and uterine thinning/dehiscence in six cases (20.7%). No maternal transfusions were required.

### Conclusion

Outcomes of subsequent pregnancies after open SB repair were in general favorable, since all subsequent pregnancies progressing >20 GW ended in live births. Nevertheless, uterine rupture remains a main obstetric risk, similar to numbers reported after classical cesarean deliveries.