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Abdominal situs inversus with the heart in the right place - a case report

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Objective

The authors report a case of abdominal situs inversus. Situs inversus, a very rare condition, which affects 0,01% of the population, indicates mirror-image location of the viscera relative to situs solitus. There are different grades – abdominal, thoracic or totalis, the latter being the most common.

Methods

Information was accessed by consulting the patient's clinical file.

Results

A 37-year-old woman, with 2 previous pregnancies without any complications, presented at 13 gestational weeks for the first trimester ultrasound. The aneuploidy screening results were low risk. The scan revealed a right sided stomach and a left sided liver, with an left sided cardiac apex, and it was raised the suspicion of abdominal situs inversus, later confirmed in the 17 weeks ultrasound. The 22 weeks ultrasound revealed a fetus growing on the 10th percentile with no other morphologic abnormalities. In the follow-up scans fetal growth remain consistent between the 10th and 25thpercentile, with normal dopplers and amniotic fluid. Throughout the pregnancy, successive fetal echocardiographies were done, with no evidence of any major congenital heart disease. Pregnancy was otherwise uneventful, and an induction of labour was proposed for between 39 and 40 gestational weeks.

Conclusion

The variant reported in this case report is extremely rare (0.00005%) – situs inversus with levocardia; even rarer if not associated with congenital heart disease. It is important to highlight the need of postnatal evaluation by a pediatric cardiologist, due to the limitations of the prenatal assessment. Although most of the patients with situs inversus with no heart disease are asymptomatic and have a normal life expectancy, documenting situs inversus is important in order to correctly interpret any future symptoms and avoid any inadvertent clinical or surgical mishap.