



A case of fetal cholelithiasis with postnatal spontaneous resolution

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Objective

Fetal cholelithiasis is a rare finding during a third-trimester ultrasound with an average incidence rate of 0.07–1.15%. We report a case of fetal cholelithiasis in singleton pregnancy, with spontaneous delivery at 39 weeks gestation. We present the outcome of the neonate with sonographic follow-up. The aim of this abstract is to present ultrasound findings of prenatal fetal cholelithiasis at third trimester of pregnancy, and spontaneous resolution two months after delivery.

Methods

This is a case report.

Results

A 29 years old woman, gravid 1, para 0, was referred at 32 weeks of gestation for a routine obstetric ultrasound examination in our hospital. High risk pregnancy as the result of a preexisting maternal medical condition or one that had appeared later was excluded. A previous ultrasound examination – morphology scan, performed in another center, demonstrated a live singleton fetus with no apparent structural abnormalities, normal morphological development and fetal movements. An ultrasound evaluation at 32 weeks was normal. The next ultrasound scan at 37+5 weeks of the fetus was normal, except for a hyperechogenic intra-cystic cholelithiasis in a transverse image through the fetal abdomen. An integrated 2-D and 3-D scan was realized, using different 3-D imaging techniques (rendering, tomographic ultrasound imaging [TUI]) (figures 1-4). A male infant (birth weight 3400g, length 52cm) was born at 39 weeks of gestation by spontaneous delivery, with normal postnatal adaptation (Apgar score 8/9). At 2 days of life, an abdominal ultrasonography examination showed a normal-sized gallbladder with minimal neonatal cholelithiasis. An ultrasound follow-up was performed at 2 months of life and showed disappearance of the gallbladder calculi. In consideration of the resolution of abnormal findings, further evaluation was not planned.

Conclusion

Fetal gallstones might be visualized by scan usually at third trimester of pregnancy; follow-up scans at 2 and 3 months postnatal show their spontaneous resolution.



