A Rare Case of a Foetal Posterior Mediastinal Lymphangioma Diagnosed Antenatally

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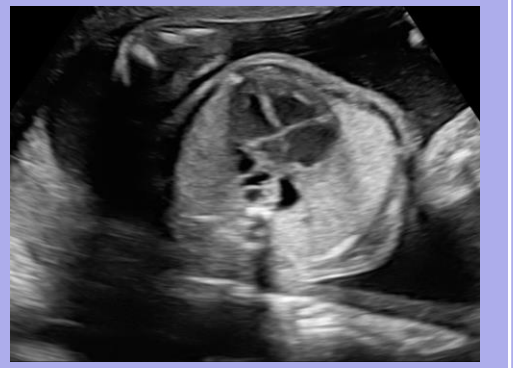
BACKGROUND

Prenatal diagnosis of lymphangiomas located in the posterior mediastinum have been reported to be extremely rare.



REFERENCES

1. Kyoko, Ono et al. (2007), Fetus with prenatally diagnosed posterior mediastinal lymphangioma: Characteristic ultrasound and magnetic resonance imaging findings, *Congenital Anomalies*; 47, 158–160
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CASE REPORT

A 26 year old women was referred to a tertiary hospital at 19 weeks gestation for assessment of a possible congenital pulmonary airway malformation on morphology scan. She was otherwise healthy and had no family history of note. An avascular multicystic chest mass adjacent to the mediastinum measuring 10 x 9 x 4mm, was identified. The cardiac views appeared normal. After further imaging at 26 weeks and multidisciplinary discussion, the diagnosis was suspected to be a posterior mediastinal lymphangioma. Minimal change was noted in the size, shape and texture of the cyst by serial ultrasound, and the foetus did not develop cardiac failure or hydrops in the antenatal period. Amniotic fluid volume also remained normal throughout the pregnancy.

A live female infant was delivered via normal vaginal birth at 41 weeks weighing 3150 grams. There were no immediate postnatal concerns.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) at 4 weeks of age confirmed the diagnosis.

DISCUSSION

Lymphangiomas are rare benign congenital abnormalities of the lymphatic vessels. Only 1% of all lymphangiomas are confined to the chest. They comprise of 1-4.5% of all mediastinal masses, however they are usually found in the anterior or superior compartments of the mediastinum.

Although the incidence of lymphangiomas located in the posterior mediastinum seems extremely rare in the prenatal period, serial and close follow-up with ultrasound along with detailed MRI examination is mandatory in a foetus suspected to have this condition.