

How frequently do we see an intrauterine pregnancy with a levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine contraceptive device in situ?- A case report.

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Background

Intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCDs) are highly reliable and effective methods of long-acting reversible contraception. Levonorgestrel-releasing IUCD suppresses the endometrial growth, thickens the cervical mucus and inhibits sperm movement. This case discusses a rare case of a viable intrauterine pregnancy with appropriately positioned 19.5mg levonorgestrel-releasing IUCD which has a 3-year Pearl Index of 0.31.

Aim

To emphasize the possibility of intrauterine pregnancy in reproductive age women with hormonal IUCD.

Case

A 28-year-old woman (gravida 2, para 0) presented with worsening lower abdominal pain and bleeding per vagina over a 2-week period with an IUCD in situ, inserted two years earlier. This presentation was on a background of one previous surgical termination of pregnancy, but otherwise no significant past medical or surgical history.

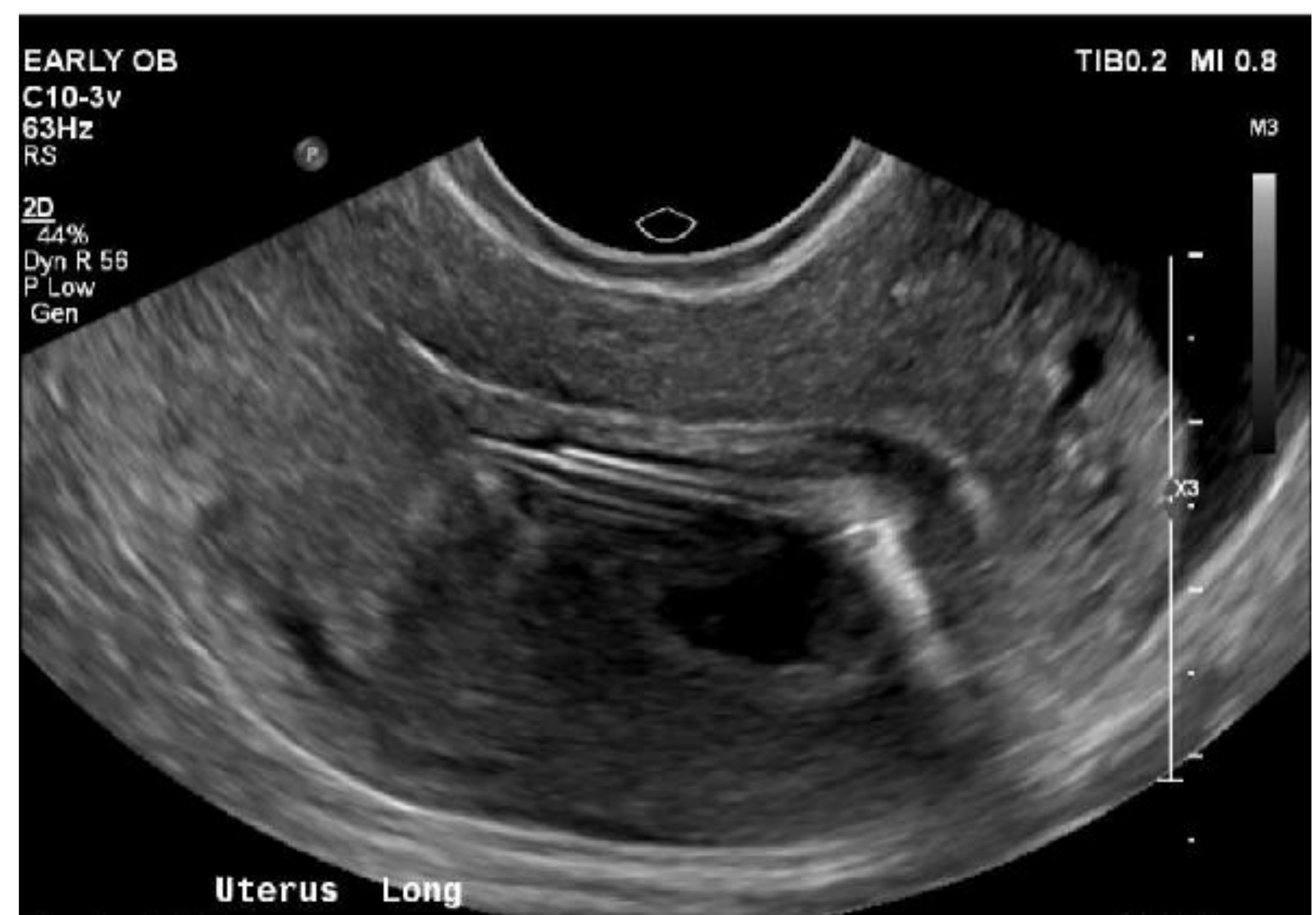
On examination, she was haemodynamically stable with a soft abdomen and no signs of peritonism. A speculum examination found the IUCD strings protruding through the cervix with ongoing fresh bleeding.

Results

The beta-HCG was 11668 IU/L and her haemoglobin was 147 g/L. An ultrasound scan of her pelvis showed a live intrauterine pregnancy with a crown-rump length of 10mm, which would roughly correspond to 7 weeks gestation, and an appropriately positioned intrauterine device. After discussion she had an uneventful removal of her IUCD and surgical termination of pregnancy under general anesthesia.

Discussion

Despite a very low failure rate, it is important for clinicians to suspect pregnancy in patients with hormonal intrauterine contraceptive devices. While these are likely seen in ectopic pregnancies, rarely intrauterine pregnancies can also occur.



Ultrasound scan of pelvis showed an intrauterine pregnancy and appropriately positioned IUCD within the uterine cavity

References

FSRH Clinical Guideline: Intrauterine contraception (March 2023, Amended July 2023)

<https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-bulletin/articles/2017/11/long-acting-reversible-contraception-implants-and-intrauterine-devices>

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