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RESEARCH ARTICLE

SUBAMNIOTIC HEMATOMA : CASE REPORT AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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Abstract

Subamniotic hematomas are a classic placental lesion resulting from the rupture of chorionic vessels near the insertion of the cord. The development of these lesions is rarely reported in utero. We present the case of a subamniotic hematoma discovered incidentally on obstetric ultrasound in a 28-year-old woman, primigestin her 20th gestational week.

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Introduction:-

Subamniotic hematomas are a placental lesion developing on its fetal surface, resulting from the rupture of chorionic vessels near the insertion of the umbilical cord. Most of these cysts result from excessive pulling on the umbilical cord during childbirth (1).

Case report :

A 28-year-old woman, with no significant medical history including obstetrics, seen for the first time in her 20th week of gestation. The clinical examination was unremarkable, the obstetric ultrasound was normal apart from the discovery of a unilocular, rounded, echogenic cystic lesion evolving on the fetal surface of the placenta near the insertion of the umbilical cord, containing two inner hyperechogenic formations related to organized clots, without color Doppler flow, which was in favor of a subamniotic hematoma (Figure 1). Subsequent ultrasound examinations coupled with color Doppler of umbilical cord arteries were scheduled to assess a possible impact on fetal growth and which have all been normal.

Discussion:-

Evaluation of previous cases of cystic masses originating from the fetal surface of the placenta is difficult due to the varying terminology used. The type of lesion we are reporting here appears to be the same as what has been described in the literature as “membranous cyst”, “subchorionic cyst”, “chorionic cyst” and “surface placental cyst”.

The overall incidence of these placental cysts can reach 5% of pregnancies (2). Often these cysts are located near the insertion of the umbilical cord and may already be present during the first trimester (3).

Subamniotic hematoma can be accurately diagnosed in utero on ultrasound and differentiated from other lesions of the placental chorionic plate. It is a unilocular cyst limited on one side by the amnion, and on the other side by the chorionic plate of the fetal surface of the placenta (4); on ultrasound, its content is hypoechogenic with the presence of inert formations, floating or attached to the chorionic plate, related to retracted blood clots and / or fibrin deposits.

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Although the lesion is located between the chorion and the amnion, cysts larger than 4.5 cm or more than 3 in number seem to have a higher frequency in terms of complications, namely: fetal-maternal hemorrhage responsible for an IUFD or fetal growth restriction in approximately 10% of cases (2), hence the importance of an early antenatal diagnosis.

The risk factors for these lesions have not yet been identified. In one reported case, there was bleeding between the 15th and 17th weeks of gestation before detecting subamniotic hematoma on the second trimester ultrasound (3). However, in practice, bleeding is too common in pregnancy to be a useful indicator. Moreover, the two are not necessarily associated. In some reported cases (3, 5), aFP was elevated, possibly related to hemorrhage, and there was restriction of intrauterine fetal growth. None of these characteristics were observed in our case.

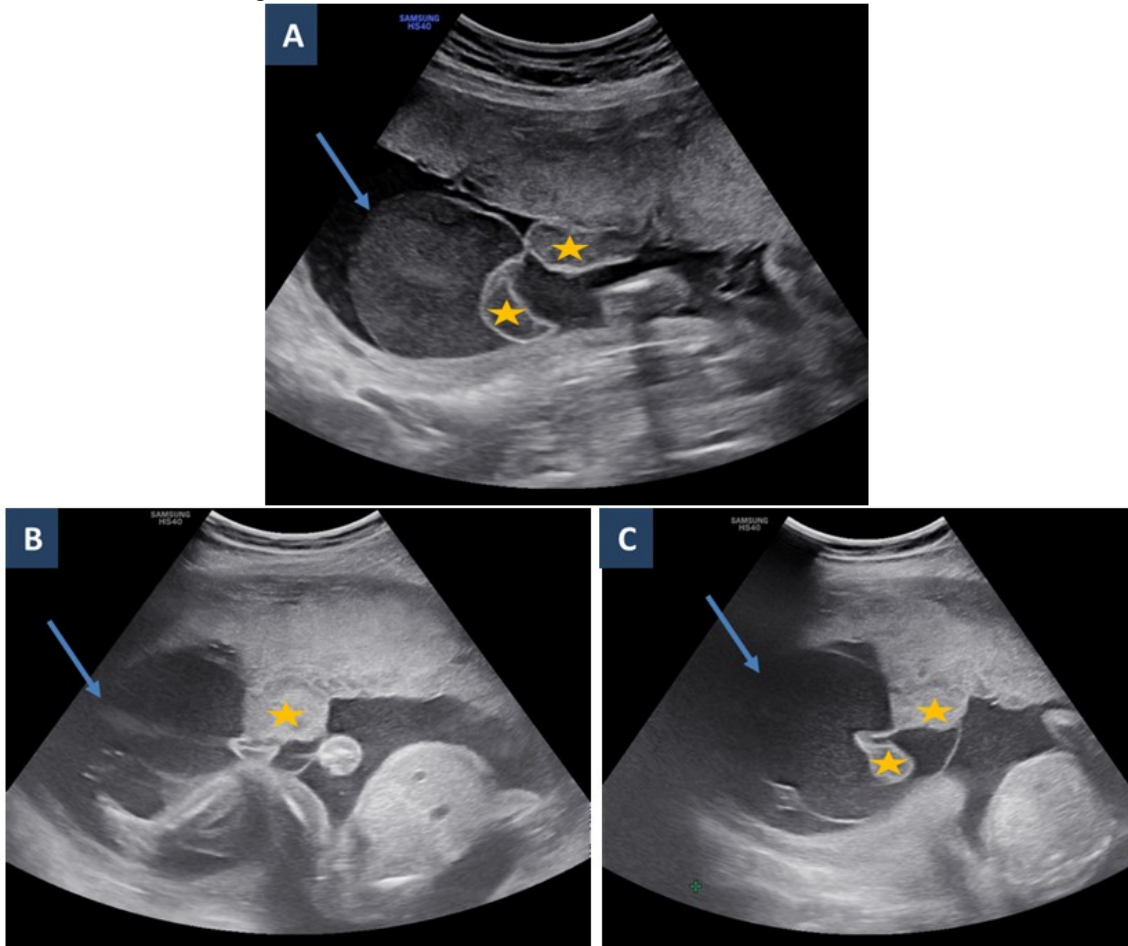


Figure 1:- Ultrasound images showing the anatomical features that form a subamniotic hematoma, evolving on the fetal side of the placenta: (A) at 20 weeks and (B), (C) at 28 weeks of gestation in the same patient. Note a cystic formation protruding from the chorionic plate, thin-walled (arrows) and hypoechogenic content, with two inert formations, one floating, and the other still attached to the chorionic plate, corresponding to organized clots (stars).

Conclusion:-

Most subamniotic hematomas are unique, occur near the umbilical cord and do not cause obstetric complications, however, ultrasound control with obstetric Doppler is necessary especially in the third trimester and obstetric management is determined by fetal growth.

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