

Clinical Image

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Large placental cyst: Clinical image

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Description

G2P1L1 24 yr pregnant lady 37 wks POG delivered a LBW (Birth wt - 2.3 kg) female baby vaginally with uneventful labour. Incidental finding of large surface placental cyst (7 x 5 cm) observed which was missed on sonography.

A placental cyst is a small area in the placenta containing liquified clear material, usually as a result of the breakdown of a material called fibrin in the placenta. On ultrasound, it appears as a dark area in the placenta sometimes surrounded by a bright white border. Areas that measure less than 1 cm across are common, and are associated with normal pregnancy outcome [1]. Placental cysts may be located within the placental tissue (septal cysts) or under the foetal plate (subchorionic cysts). The incidence of these placental cysts has been reported to be 5% to 7% for subchorionic cysts and up to 20% for septal cysts [2]. On macroscopic examination, they are usually singular, but can be multiple. They may be central and lie immediately below the chorionic plate. Cysts over 5 cm may be related to blood flow problems in the placenta & if attached near the umbilical cord insertion should be followed closely by ultrasound, colour Doppler sonography, and assessment of foetal well-being to rule out partial occlusion of umbilical cord blood flow and possible intrauterine growth retardation [3].



Figure 1: Large placental cyst (Gross- Clear fluid filled).

References

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