The evaluation of fetal face is an integral part of all obstetric ultrasounds. Fetal micrognathia is a rare and subtle occurrence in which there is a small mandible that is abnormally positioned in relation to the maxilla (retrognathia)\(^1\). It can be seen in the sagittal view of the face during an obstetric ultrasound and it may be associated with adverse environmental factors, multiple genetic syndromes and with chromosomal abnormalities. The overall prognosis seems to be poor. We present a case of isolated fetal micrognathia, which has been suspected in the first trimester ultrasound and ended in termination of pregnancy.

Keywords: Fetal micrognathia; Obstetric ultrasound.

Fetal micrognathia is a rare occurrence in which there is a small mandible and a receding chin. It can be seen in the sagittal view of the face during an obstetric ultrasound and it may be associated with adverse environmental factors, multiple genetic syndromes and with chromosomal abnormalities. The overall prognosis seems to be poor. We present a case of isolated fetal micrognathia, which has been suspected in the first trimester ultrasound and ended in termination of pregnancy.

Keywords: Fetal micrognathia; Obstetric ultrasound.
First trimester ultrasound detection of fetal micrognathia

Assessment of the amniotic fluid volume and fetal movements should be performed in order to exclude, for example, neuromuscular diseases. Delivery should occur in a reference centre with immediate paediatric assistance for the newborn, as there may be obstruction of the upper airway. Moreover, paediatric anaesthesiologist should be available, because ex utero intrapartum treatment might be an option in severe cases.

This case illustrates the need of a careful observation of the fetal face during each obstetric ultrasound scan; otherwise serious conditions like this can go unnoticed and be diagnosed only after birth, when it might be too late to provide the necessary assistance.

REFERENCES

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