IS-20  Prenatal Diagnostic Clues for Fetus-in-fetu

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Objective: The purpose of this paper is to define a prenatal diagnostic criteria for fetus-in-fetu based on the characteristic findings from four cases of fetus-in-fetu experienced by the authors.

Method: An analysis of prenatal ultrasound findings, postpartum simple x-ray findings, operative findings and pathologic findings was carried out on four cases of fetus-in-fetu collected form multi-center.

Results: Prenatal ultrasound findings for each of the four cases showed a fluid filled sac with a solid portion “floating” within. As well, bony structures were included within the solid portion. In each of the four cases, postpartum imaging were consistent with prenatal ultrasound exams. Operative findings revealed a solid mass within a fluid filled sac surrounded by transparent membrane. The solid mass was connected to the membrane by a stalk. Histopathologically, the cells making up the sac were the same type as those of the amnion while the solid mass had the general characteristics of fetus-in-fetu.

Conclusion: Fetus-in-fetu can be suspected when prenatal ultrasound exams of the fetus show a solid mass with bony structures within a fluid filled sac.