



First Trimester Diagnosis of Body Stalk Anomaly Confirmed Postnatally

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Abstract

Body stalk anomaly, with a prevalence of 0.12 in 10,000 births, occurs when abdominal organs develop outside the abdominal cavity while remaining attached to the placenta in the fetus. This article relates to a rare case of body stalk anomaly detected in the first trimester of pregnancy. The images presented are characteristic to the anomaly. A postnatal evaluation confirmed the findings and helped in comprehensive counseling of the patient

Keywords Body stalk anomaly · Amelia · First trimester diagnosis · 3D ultrasound · Postnatal examination

Body stalk anomaly occurs when abdominal organs develop outside the abdominal cavity while remaining attached to placenta and is usually accompanied with severe kyphoscoliosis, short or absent umbilical cord etc.

2D ultrasound of a 32-year old primigravida who presented at 12 weeks gestation revealed major anterior abdominal wall defect with part of defect extending into celomic cavity (Fig. 1a, b). The umbilical cord was indiscernible

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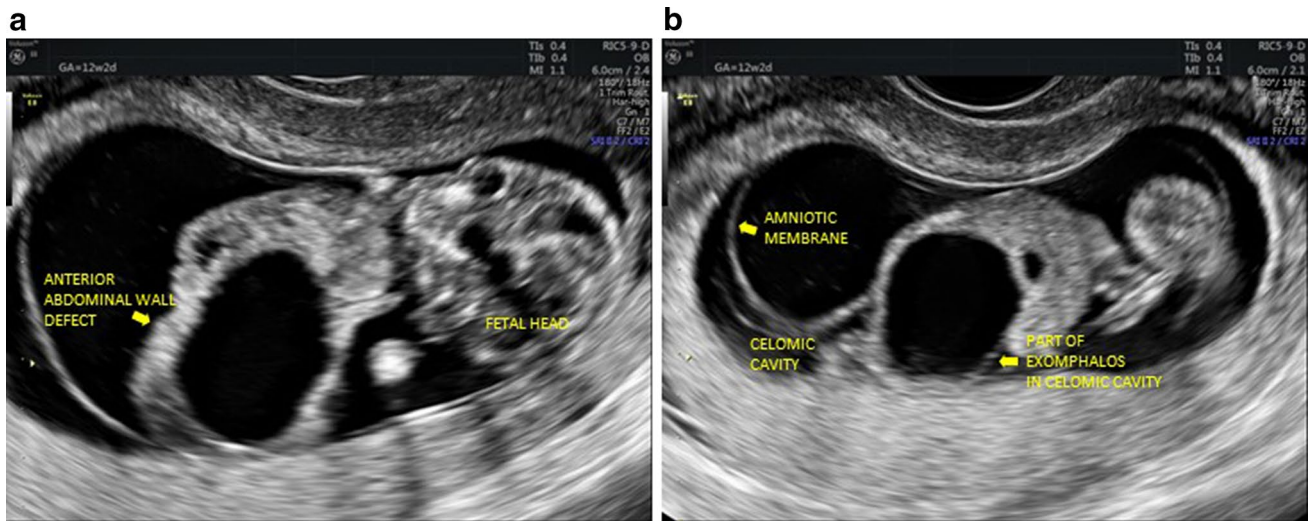


Fig. 1 a 2D USG image showing a major anterior abdominal wall defect. b depicts part of the abdominal wall defect extending into the coelomic cavity without an intervening umbilical cord

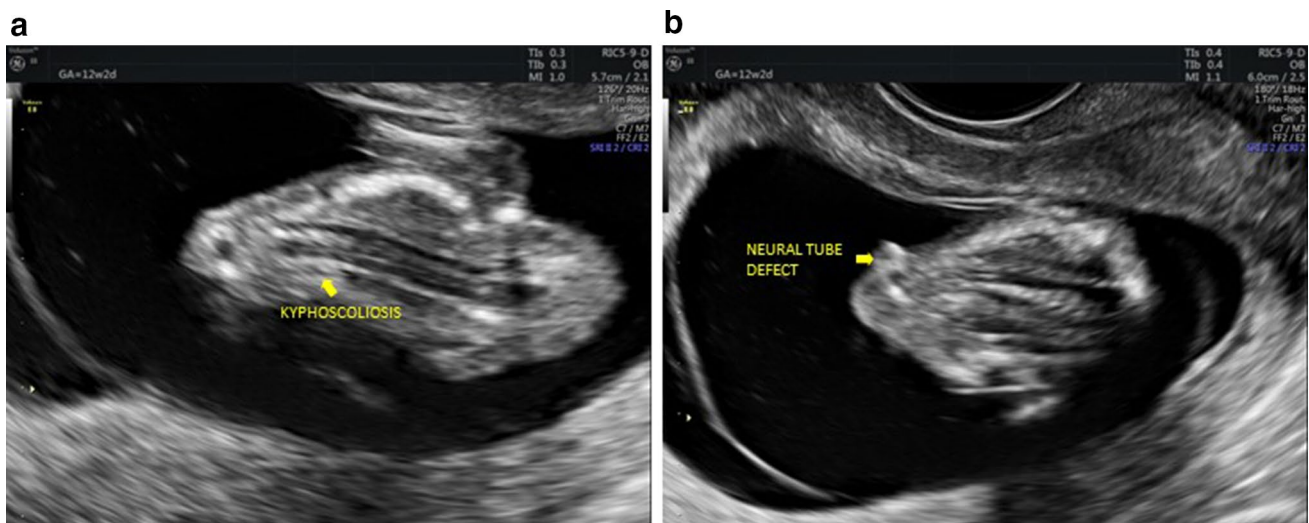


Fig. 2 a 2D USG image of kyphoscoliosis of the spine. b demonstrates a small neural tube defect in the lumbosacral region

on ultrasound. Ultrasound examination further revealed distorted spine, small neural tube defect in lumbosacral region and unilateral lower limb amelia (Fig. 2a, b and Fig. 3).

Post counselling, owing to lethality of body stalk anomaly, the mother opted for pregnancy termination. The diagnosis was confirmed postnatally (Fig. 4).

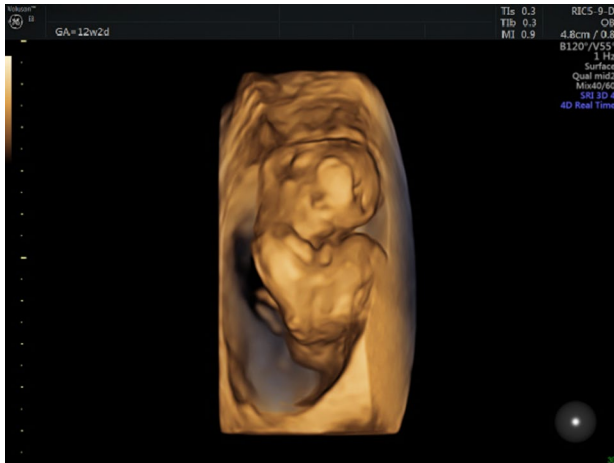


Fig. 3 3D USG reconstruction illustrating large anterior abdominal wall defect, a single leg and a small lumbosacral neural tube defect



Fig. 4 Postnatal image of the abortus showing the anterior abdominal wall defect, which got ruptured during delivery along with amelia

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Informed consent Informed consent was obtained from the patient before performing the ultrasound. Consent has also been taken from her for reporting this case and due care has been taken to maintain anonymity.

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About the Author



restriction, Rh-immunisation, diagnostic and therapeutic fetal procedures and clinical genetics.

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