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Objective: To highlight the importance of the General Data Protection Law (GDPL) in cases of fetal medicine imaging.

Methods: Images from 217 cases involving ultrasound (US) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) were used for cases of fetal malformations during the third trimester of pregnancy. Scans were performed using high-resolution US, and MRI was conducted on the same day.

Results: Central nervous system malformations were the most common (68%), followed by thoracic (17%), abdominal and urinary system abnormalities (12%), and placental anomalies (3%). Patients signed a consent form detailing both examinations and guaranteeing complete image anonymity. All patients reported feeling reassured after receiving the informed consent, which underscored the application of the GDPL.

Conclusion: Advances in imaging technology have significantly improved fetal medicine. US remains the primary method for fetal diagnosis, while MRI is typically used when US cannot produce high-quality diagnostic images. The GDPL was enacted in Brazil in 2020, introducing substantial changes to the management of personal data by establishing regulations for the collection, processing, use and secure storage of data. It should always be considered in studies involving personal data. The law applies to data processing within and outside the country whenever personal data is collected.

