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Evaluation of the activity of a referral prenatal diagnosis center in Tunisia: a prospective multicenter study

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Objectives: To identify the fetal malformations referred and managed of at the Referral Prenatal Diagnosis unit at The Maternity and Neonatology Center of Tunis in order to make a national registry of malformations in Tunisia.

Methods: Carried out a multicenter descriptive longitudinal study of antenatal fetal malformations and abnormalities; identified prospectively over a four-years period from January 2020 to December 2024.

Our study included all women with a fetal malformation or abnormality during this period. We studied clinical and sonographic factors.

Results: The Maternity and Neonatal Center of Tunis manages 10 % of the country's deliveries. We followed 846 cases of antenatal fetal malformations during the study period.

The average maternal age of patients was 31 years old. Consanguinity was found in 21.64 %.

The main gestational age at diagnosis was 23 GW, with 6.71 % in the first trimester and 45.89 % in the second.

Amniocentesis was performed in 27.42 % and chorionic villus sampling in 4.10 %.

Central nervous system malformations were the most common with 30.08 % followed by heart abnormalities with 15.9 %, then chromosomal abnormalities with 12.68%.

A clear anatomo–echographic concordance was noted.

Conclusion

Prenatal diagnosis in Tunisia has improved in recent decades. Birth defects and chromosomal abnormalities represent a heavy personal and social burden. This alerts to the need for a public health policy that deals with the prevention of these malformations and the improvement of early screening.

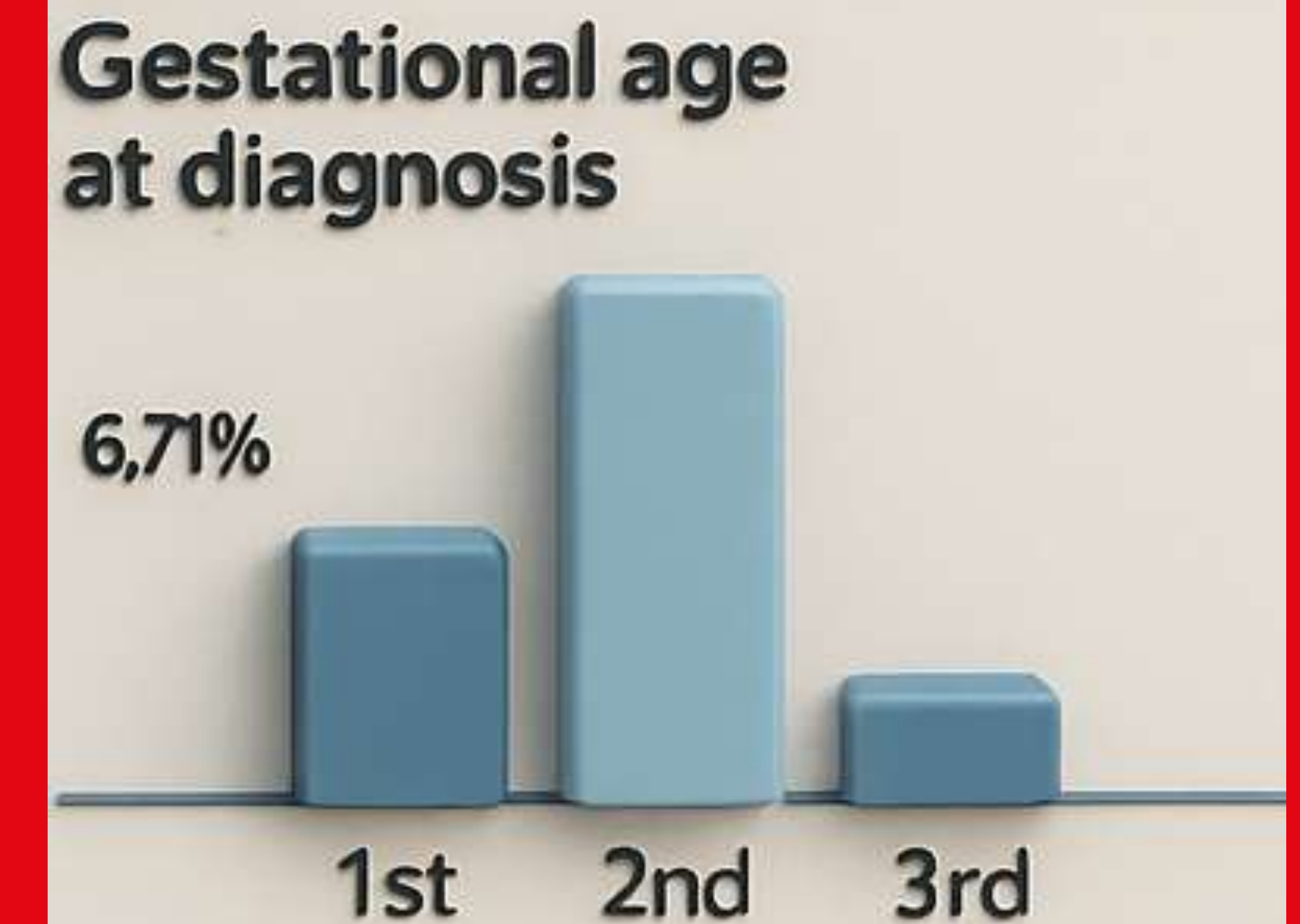


Figure 1 : gestational age at diagnosis

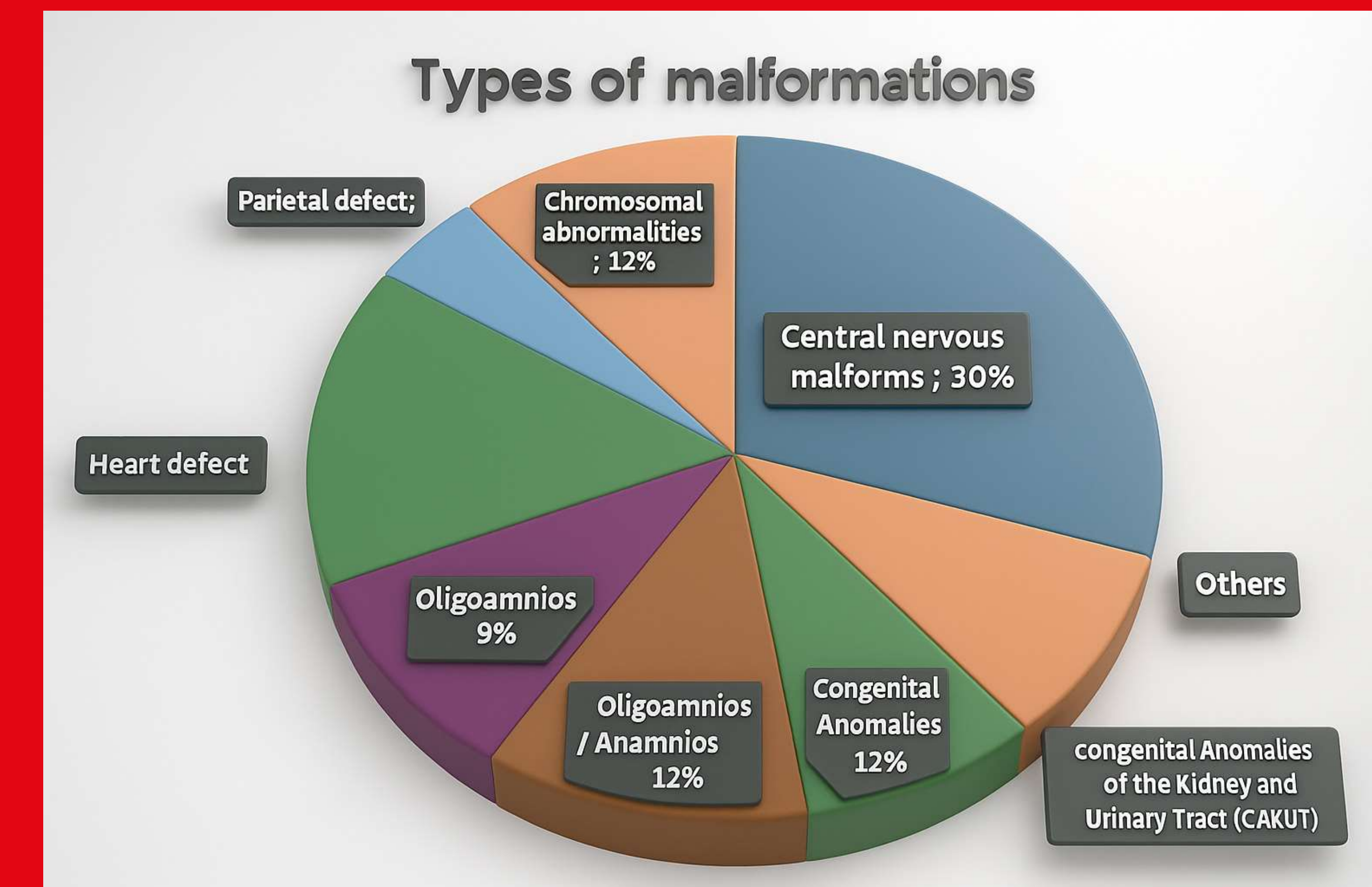


Figure 2 :Types of malformations