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Case presentation: Early prenatal diagnosis of isolated dextrogastria

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Introduction

Dextrogastria, the right-sided positioning of the fetal stomach, is a rare prenatal finding often associated with situs anomalies or other congenital abnormalities. However, isolated dextrogastria without additional findings is uncommon, and its clinical significance remains unclear. It is believed that the prevalence of this condition is fewer than 1 in 10,000 live births.

Case presentation

We report the case of a 29-year-old woman, G2P1, whose first pregnancy was uneventful. In her second pregnancy, routine first-trimester ultrasound raised suspicion of dextrogastria, which was confirmed in the second trimester. A detailed anatomical scan, including fetal echocardiography, showed no additional anomalies. Although the double test screening resulted normal (low risk) for chromosomal aneuploidies, invasive genetic testing was offered but was declined by the patient. The pregnancy progressed normally uneventful, and the baby was delivered at term via cesarean section for maternal indications (previous cesarean birth). The newborn weighed 3400 g and was healthy, with postnatal assessment confirming isolated dextrogastria without associated abnormalities. There were no problems with feeding, GI transit and the growth rate for the first 3 months is normal.



1. Antenatally diagnosed right-sided stomach (dextrogastria): A rare rotational anomaly Versteegh, Hendt P. et al. Journal of Pediatric Surgery, Volume 51, Issue 2, 236 - 239
2. Mendonça, C. et al "Abdominal Situs Inversus with the Heart in the Right Place – A Case Report." The Fetal Medicine Foundation, 2022, <https://fetalmedicine.org/abstracts/2022/var/pdf/abstracts/2022/04189.pdf>

Conclusion

Dextrogastria is typically linked to complex syndromes, necessitating a thorough prenatal workup to rule out associated anomalies. Literature review indicates that most cases are part of situs anomalies or heterotaxy syndromes 1; however, isolated cases have been reported with favorable outcomes. It is estimated that this finding is extremely rare (0.00005%) – situs inversus with levocardia.2 Management primarily involves detailed imaging and individualized counseling. In the absence of other findings, prognosis is generally excellent, as demonstrated in this case.

Isolated dextrogastria is a rare but benign prenatal finding. The diagnosis of situs inversus with levocardia is challenging but as our case shows it is possible to diagnose even early during the pregnancy. This case highlights the importance of comprehensive prenatal assessment and counseling while emphasizing that normal outcomes are possible in the absence of additional anomalies.