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[EP10.20] Fetal Surgery in a Country with a Poor Healthcare System: Analysis of 171 Cases.



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Objectives: This essay aims to present and analyze statistics on 171 fetal surgeries performed in a country with a poor healthcare system over a 9-year period. Through this analysis, we seek to understand the challenges inherent in performing fetal surgeries in resource-poor conditions.

Methods: A retrospective study based on the analysis of records of 171 fetal surgeries performed at the Fetosur Foundation Center for Fetal Medicine and Surgery of the Sanatorio Internacional de Ciudad del Este, Paraguay, between November 2016 and February 2025. Descriptive analyses, clinical evolution of patients, postoperative results and most frequent complications, as well as overall survival were analyzed.

Results: 171 interventions, including: 75 placental lasers (43% of the total), 28 vesicoamniotic or thoracoamniotic shunts (16%), 16 cases of spina bifida (9%), 13 fetal tumors, 12 severe amniotomies, 11 amniotic patches, 5 transfusions, 2 ureteroceles, 2 cystoscopies for posterior urethral valve with laser, 2 amniotic bands, 2 gastroschises, 2 congenital diaphragmatic hernias and 1 valvuloplasty. The complication rate was 7%, ranging from premature rupture of membranes, infections, preterm delivery and one fetal death due to chorioamnionitis due to methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. The surgical success rate was 92%, while the overall survival rate was 79.8%.

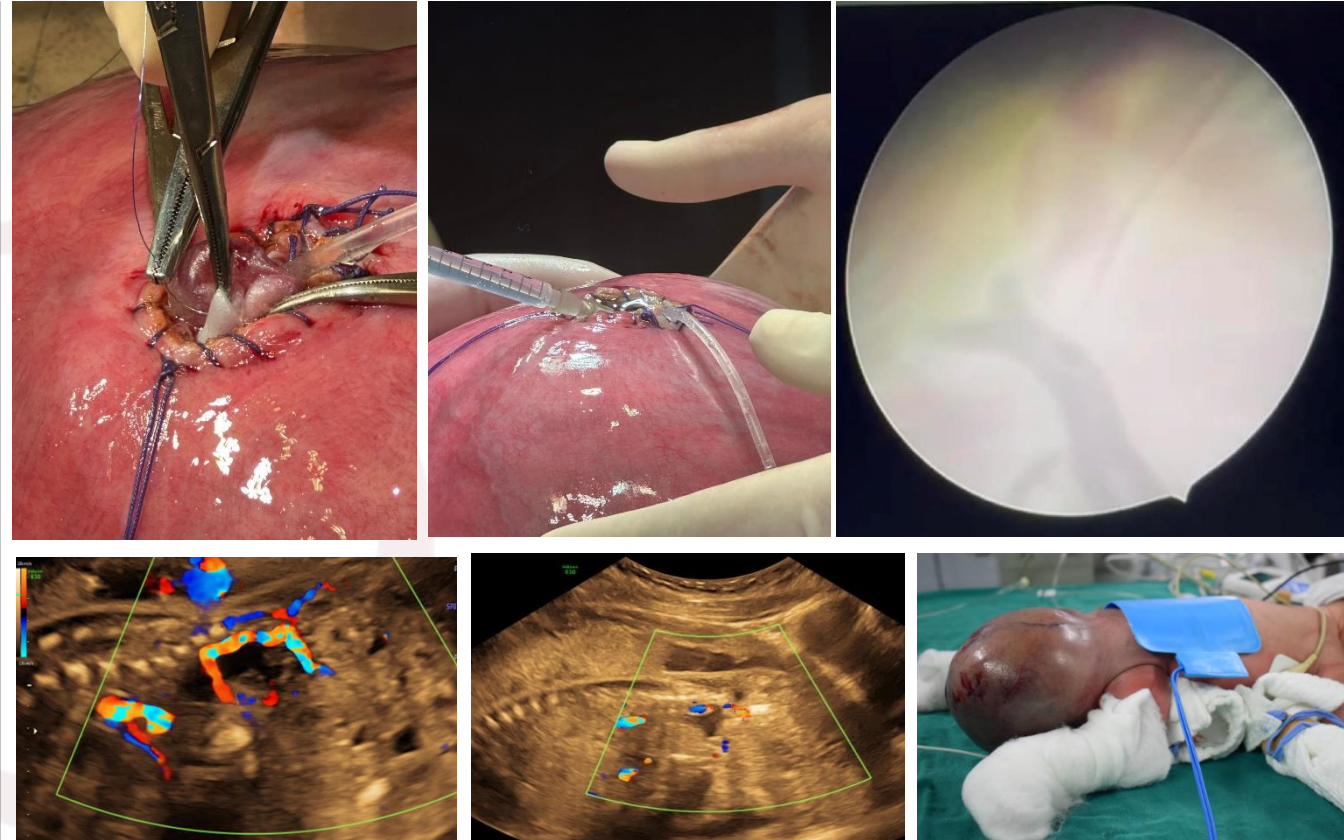


Figure: Showing the different types of procedures that were performed, faced numerous challenges.

Conclusion: Performing fetal surgery in a country with a weak healthcare system presents several challenges, but also demonstrates the positive impact these interventions can have on fetal and neonatal health. Although the results were mostly satisfactory, limitations in the health system affected the effectiveness and survival of premature newborns in some cases.