

EP10.50 Strategies for fetoscopic laser surgery with cloudy amniotic fluid.

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Introduction

Fetoscopic laser surgery with cloudy amniotic fluid is a challenge because of poor visibility. The objective was to assess the efficacy of three different strategies performed simultaneously to improve identification of placental anastomosis in fetoscopy with cloudy amniotic fluid.

Methods

From 2018 through 2024, we did fetoscopic laser surgery for 5 patients with TTTS with cloudy amniotic fluid.

Three different strategies were used simultaneously to improve visibility:

- Single operator ultrasound guidance of the fetoscope holding the probe with the left hand and the fetoscope with the right hand.
- Continuous irrigation with warm saline through a fetoscopic working channel at a flow rate of 20 mL/min.
- Getting the scope closer than usual to the placental surface.

Results

All 5 cases with cloudy amniotic fluid were successfully managed.

The median gestational age at the time of laser surgery was 23 weeks, anterior placenta was observed in 2 cases, operation time was 90 min and total volume of saline used for irrigation was 800 mL. However, only in one of them was double survival achieved, in 3 of them survival of one twin was achieved, and in one case there was double intrauterine demise.

Postnatal examination showed that four placentas had signs of inflammation.

Conclusions

Combining those three different strategies (single operator ultrasound guidance, continuous irrigation and approximation of the fetoscope to the placenta), we can perform fetoscopic laser surgery with severely cloudy amniotic fluid.

