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Prenatal detection of fetal gallbladder lithiasis at 32 weeks with spontaneous postnatal resolution: a case report

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Introduction

Fetal gallbladder lithiasis is an uncommon finding during prenatal ultrasound and is usually considered a benign and self-limiting condition. Recognition of this entity is important to differentiate it from other hepatobiliary abnormalities and to avoid unnecessary interventions

Case

We report a case detected at 33 weeks of gestation during routine third-trimester ultrasound. Examination demonstrated echogenic intraluminal foci within the fetal gallbladder, suggestive of gallstones. The gallbladder appeared normal in size and shape, and no associated biliary tract dilatation or other fetal anomalies were identified. Doppler evaluation showed no vascular signal within the echogenic material, supporting the diagnosis of fetal gallbladder lithiasis. Serial prenatal ultrasound follow-up showed persistence of the echogenic material without complications.

After birth, neonatal ultrasound confirmed gallbladder lithiasis in an otherwise asymptomatic infant. Conservative management was adopted, and follow-up ultrasound at three months demonstrated complete spontaneous resolution.

Conclusion

This case emphasizes the importance of recognizing fetal gallbladder lithiasis as a benign prenatal finding. Accurate prenatal diagnosis and postnatal surveillance allow reassurance of parents and prevent unnecessary investigations or interventions.



Figure 1. fetal gallbladder lithiasis



Figure 2. Fetal gallbladder lithiasis