

Hydrocolpos – a rare prenatal diagnosis. A case report.

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Introduction

Hydrocolpos is a rare congenital condition characterized by the buildup of blood or mucus secretions in the vagina due to vaginal obstruction. This condition is usually diagnosed postnatally. Prenatal diagnosis of hydrocolpos is rare, but essential for proper counselling and postnatal management.

Case

27-year-old G4P1021 female referred to MFM due to a mass behind the fetal bladder. Her pregnancy otherwise was uncomplicated. Cell-free DNA was low risk for aneuploidies; female.

Ultrasound demonstrated a unilocular, midline, retrovesicular cystic structure with low-level echoes, measuring 4.1×4.7 cm. In the sagittal plane, the structure was elongated, with a double-barreled appearance, measuring up to 7 cm. The target sign (anal dimple), fetal kidneys, bladder, and normal external female genitalia were seen. There was no evidence of bowel dilation or hydronephrosis. The patient underwent elective induction of labor at 39 3/7 weeks, followed by spontaneous vaginal delivery of a female fetus weighing 3440g with Apgar scores of 8 and 9. Postnatal examination of the newborn confirmed the diagnosis of an imperforate hymen and hydrocolpos.

The baby girl initially underwent expectant management, but later developed stage 2-3 hydronephrosis and was referred to urology for further interventions.

Discussion

The diagnosis of fetal hydrocolpos should be considered when a pelvic cystic structure is detected in a female fetus, located midline behind the bladder, and containing low-level echogenicity. The condition can be associated with genitourinary or anorectal anomalies; careful assessment of the bladder, kidneys, and bowel is essential.

Conclusion

This case underscores the importance of prenatal imaging in facilitating timely diagnosis, improving prenatal counseling, and guiding appropriate delivery and neonatal care planning.

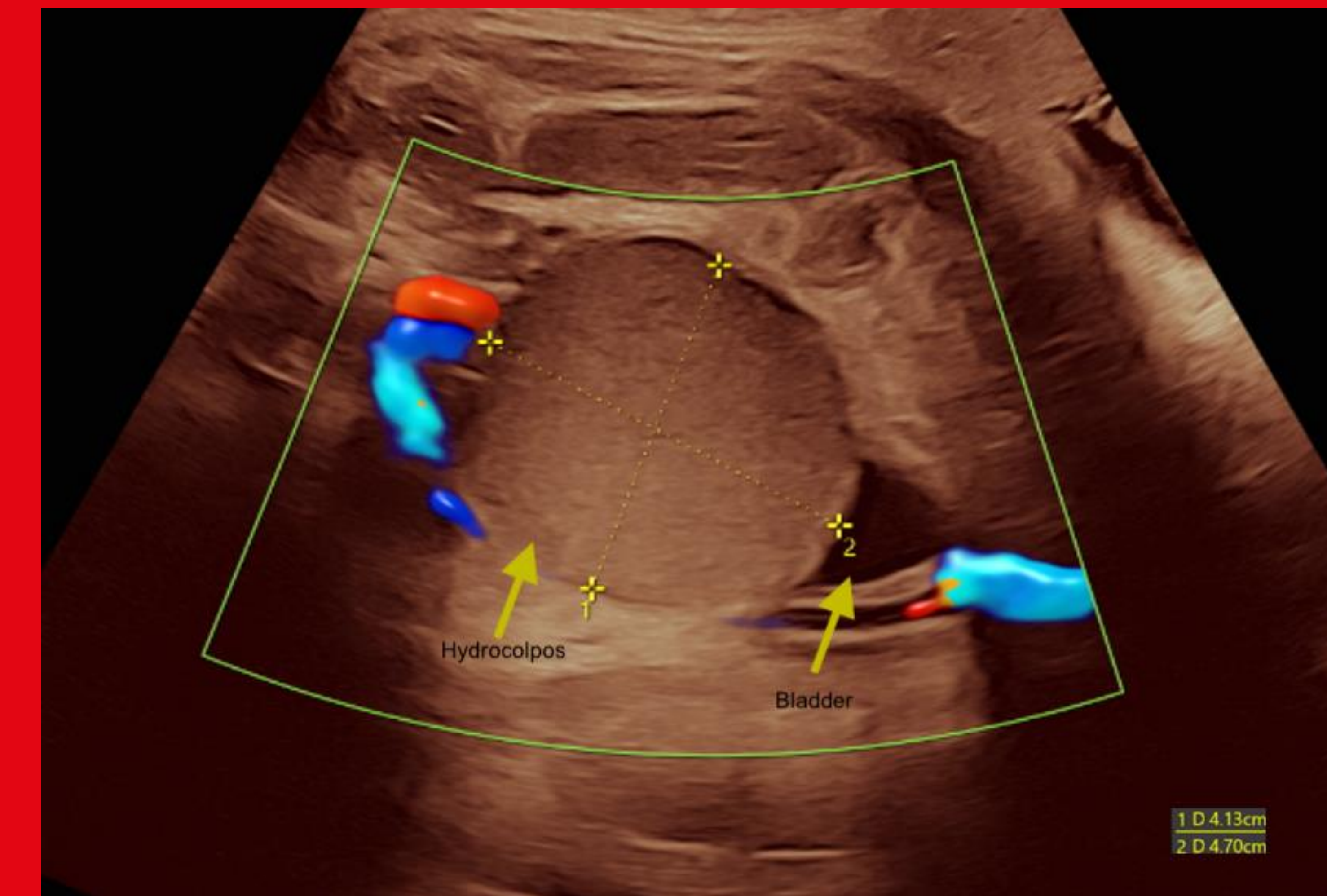


Figure 1. Axial plane through the fetal pelvis with bladder, umbilical arteries, and hydrocolpos (cystic structure behind the bladder with measurement calipers).

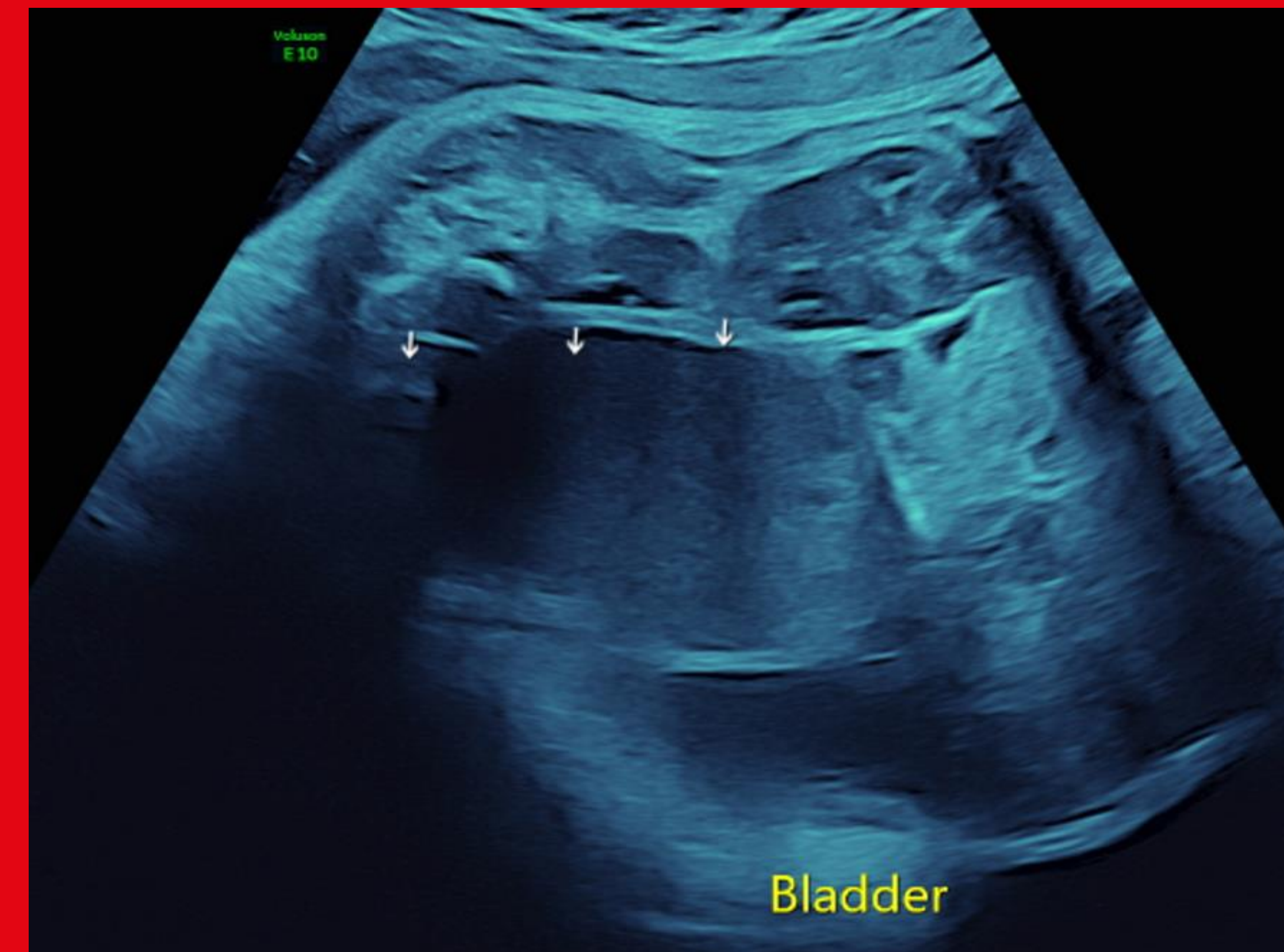


Figure 2. Sagittal view through the fetal pelvis with hydrocolpos (indicated by arrows) and bladder