



PREGNANCY COMPLICATED WITH LARGE FOCAL NODULE IN THE LIVER: MANAGEMENT DILEMMA

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Background

Mass lesions in liver in pregnancy are rare including hemangiomas, focal nodular hyperplasia, and hepatocellular adenomas and carcinomas. Therefore, it can present with unique challenges with many diagnostic and management uncertainties. This is a case of large liver nodule suggestive of Focal Nodular Hyperplasia diagnosed incidentally during routine ultrasound scan at 21 weeks of gestation.

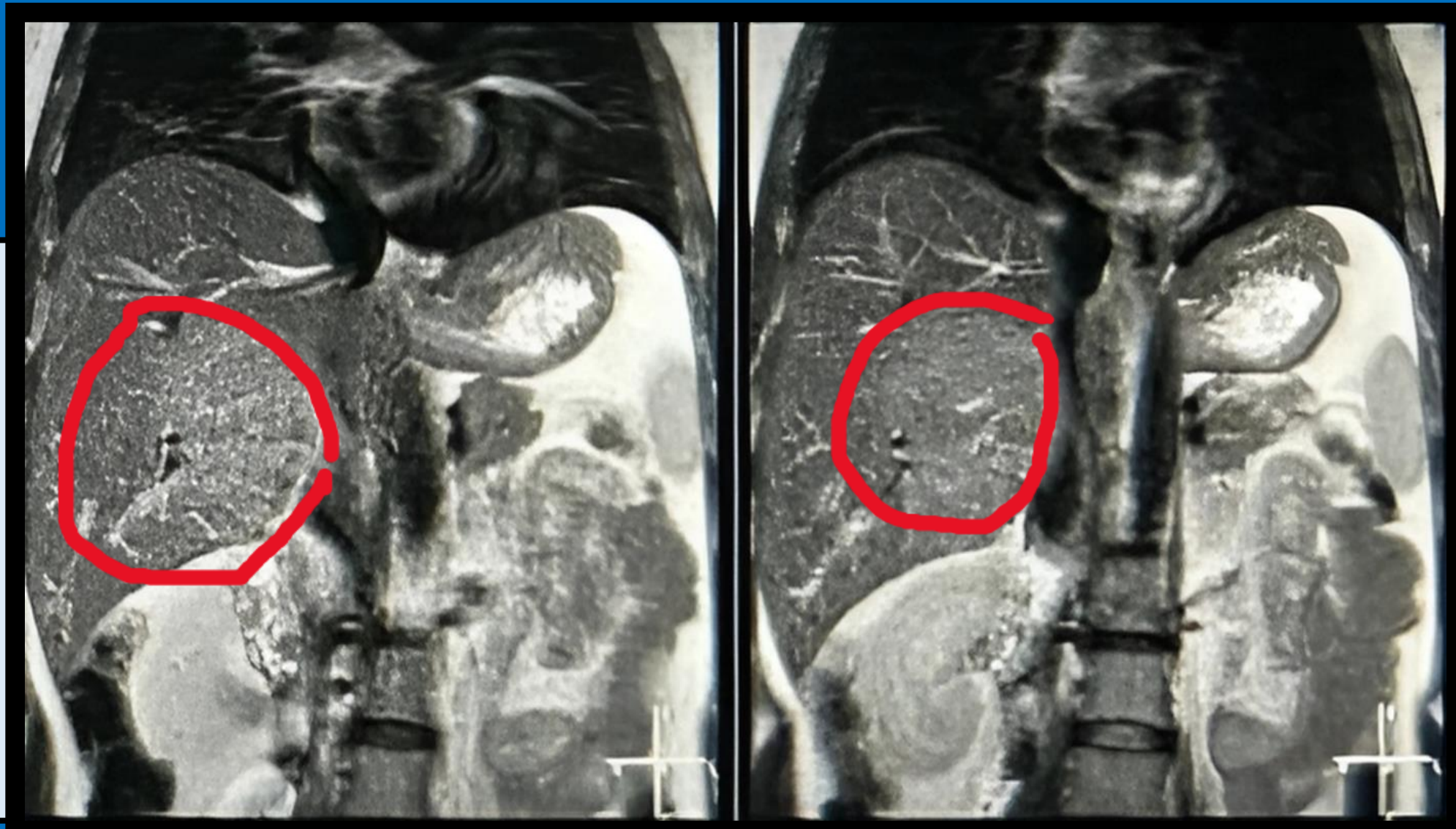
Case Presentation

History

- 31 year old
- POG- 21 weeks
- G2P1C1
- Antenatally uncomplicated
- No nausea/ vomiting or jaundice

Examination

- BMI- 27kg/m²
- Bp- 110/70
- Normal physical examination
- SFH-21cm



Investigations

- USS- Normal fetal parameters
 - - Hypoechoic liver lesion
- NC-MRI- Large heterogenous mass with lobulated outlines with features suggestive of focal nodular hyperplasia
 - - Slight compression on inferior vena cava but patent
- CEMRI- Well defined focal liver lesion in segment VII extending to segment VI measuring 8.1x6.6x8.2cm with a T2 hyper intense central scar suggestve of focal nodular hyperplasia
 - - No other focal liver lesions or diffuse parenchymal abnormality of liver
 - - No lymphadenopathy
- Liver biochemistry- Normal



Discussion

Liver lesions during pregnancy are uncommon but can pose challenges in diagnosis and management and the need to avoid harm to the fetus. Focal nodular hyperplasia is a benign liver lesion that is typically asymptomatic and found incidentally on imaging. MRI can be used to distinguish it from adenomas. The use of MRI during pregnancy is associated with concerns among patients and health professionals with regards to fetal safety. The primary concern is the exposure of the fetus to contrast, gadolinium, due to its ability to cross the placental barrier into fetal circulation. Although this is being actively investigated, no studies have reported any adverse effects when human fetuses were exposed in utero up to date.

References

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Conclusion

- Lack of evidence in managing large liver lesions in pregnancy make the management difficulties.
- Robust evidence in diagnosis and managemnet of large liver lesions, is need to address these challenges

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