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Prenatal evaluation of heterotaxy syndrome by fetal echocardiography and correlating with autopsy

Madhavi Latha Routhu

Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital, India

Heterotaxy syndrome/isomerism is characterized by an abnormal symmetry of the viscera that are normally dissimilar due to abnormal lateralization of thoracic and abdominal viscera and is frequently associated with complex cardiac anomalies. Isomerism may be of right or left. This article describes the morphological characteristics of heterotaxy and suggests an approach in evaluating the spectrum of abnormalities associated with this syndrome. The study was based on 10 cases diagnosed sonographically as heterotaxy syndrome. The results of examinations were re-evaluated and compared by fetal autopsy. Based on the following echocardiographic criteria, a diagnosis of left isomerism was made if there was viscerotaxial heterotaxy associated with an interruption of IVC or with finger like right atrial appendage or if there was a heart block. If there was evidence of viscerotaxial heterotaxy with complex cardiac anomalies then it was diagnosed as right atrial isomerism. We diagnosed 4/10 as left isomerism and rest of the cases as right isomerism. In autopsy, we evaluated visceral situs and the morphology of the lungs and the main bronchi, the state of the liver, spleen, bowel and the precise anatomy of the heart and confirmed 4/10 were left isomerism 4/10 as right isomerism and two cases as visceral heterotaxy syndrome (VHS). Finally, we aimed to find common features of VHS on prenatal ultrasound as well as on fetal autopsy. This syndrome should be accurately diagnosed in the prenatal period in order to allow appropriate counseling of parents. However, in spite of prenatal diagnosis, the prognosis remains poor.

Biography

Madhavi Latha Routhu has completed her Diploma in Radiology in the year 1999 after completing MBBS. She worked as Observer in Radiology Department in Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in 1999. She began her career as Consultant Radiologist at CDR Hospital, Telangana. She joined as Assistant Civil Surgeon in the Department of Radio Diagnosis at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Hospital and also as a faculty member of Kakatiya Medical College since 2000. Under her guidance more than 20 Post-graduate students completed their course successfully. She is the examiner for DMIT students. She is the Managing Director of Vinoothna Diagnostic Centre where she is mainly concentrated on Reproductive Imaging. She has vast experience in Fetal Ultrasonography. Some of her rare findings are published in reputed journals. She is a recipient of Best Doctor award by State Government and Best Teachers award from Kakatiya Medical College. She is a member of IRIA and ISUOG.

madhavaradiologist@gmail.com

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