

Ultrasound diagnosis of oropharyngeal teratoma in the 17th week of pregnancy

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Panel 1



Panel 2

In the 17th week of pregnancy a woman aged 35 years came for an ultrasound examination due to her risky age and two previous miscarriages. By conventional transvaginal (two-dimensional – 2D) ultrasound examination it was established that the foetus was of appropriate size for the length of amenorrhea, and all vital organs had normal structure. The face could not be shown, except the forehead and orbits, due to an oval for-



mation sized 30 x 40 mm, whose ultrasound structure was reminiscent of the tissue of the placenta (Panel 1). Shown from another angle, on the profile image of the fetus, the formation appeared as a solid tumour, with its base located in the mouth, with most of it protruding in front of the face (Panel 2). The pregnancy was terminated two days later. The aborted fetus was 22 cm long, with a solid tumour 4 cm in length protruding from the mouth (Panel 3). No other anomalies were noticed on the fetus. The ultrasound examination undertaken in the 13th week of gestation was morphologically and biometrically normal, and the thickness of the nuchal translucency was 1.3 mm. Oropharyngeal teratoma (epignathus) are very rare benign congenital tumours (0.5-1:10000) which grow in the mouth, mostly from the palate (1). The high mortality (80-100%) in the early neonatal period is caused by obstruction of the airways, although cases have been described of a positive outcome after surgery undertaken immediately after birth by an “exit procedure” (EX utero intra-partum technique).

1. Tsitouridis I, Sidiropoulos D, Michaelides M. Sonographic evaluation of epignathus. *Hippokratia*. 2009;3(1):55-7.

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