PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS OF TALIPES EQUINOVARUS

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OBJECTIVE

Talipes equinovarus refers to a developmental deformity of the foot in which one or both feet are excessively plantar flexed, with the forefoot swung medially and the sole facing inward. We report a case of bilateral talipes equinovarus diagnosed by ultrasound scan in 2nd trimestre.

METHODS

A 23-year-old primigravida woman with no significant family or personal history followed in our perinatology centre for monitoring since the beginning of the pregnancy. There was no consanguinity between the parents.

At the 1st trimestre ultrasound no fetal abnormalities were noticed. Nuchal translucency was 2.03 mm, (TSC).

Ultrasound at 21.5 weeks showed the plantar surface of the fetal foot in the same sagittal plane as both lower extremity bones. This abnormal position persisted over time and despite motion of the foot. No other anatomical defects were detected. Also amniotic fluid was normal and no abnormalities were found in fetal ecocardiography.

Three-dimensional ultrasound confirmed the findings providing us a clear clubfoot image.

RESULTS

Talipes equinovarus is usually associated with additional anatomic abnormalities (e.g., open neural tube defect). If these are suspected, determination of fetal karyotype is recommended.

There is no consensus as to whether amniocentesis should be offered when the only indication for karyotyping is an isolated clubfoot (unilateral or bilateral).

In this case, clubfoot was an isolate finding so invasive prenatal diagnosis was rejected.

CONCLUSION

Early diagnosis of fetal limb abnormalities may be important because those findings can be associated with other anomalies. This will provide more time for patients counseling and decision making about terminating or continuing de gestation.