

Contribution of fetal autopsy after termination of pregnancy

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Objective

The aim of this study is to evaluate the correlation between prenatal sonography and fetal autopsy findings.

Methods

This is a retrospective analytic study of 60 terminations of pregnancy carried out over four years period from 2016 to 2020, performed at the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics (A) of the Charles Nicolle Hospital of Tunis, Tunisia. Autopsies were performed at the Department of Fetal Pathology of the Maternity and Neonatology Center of Tunis, Tunisia.

Results

In 65.8% of the cases, the ultrasound findings were confirmed at the autopsy. Prenatal sonography examination was accurate in terms of diagnosing major malformations such as neurological malformations and cardiac pathologies. In terms of minor malformations, such as face and limb anomalies, ultrasound imaging missed the diagnosis in 34.2% of the cases.

Conclusion

A high degree of agreement between definitive ultrasound and autopsy findings in first and second trimester termination of pregnancy was found for major fetal malformations. But ultrasound imaging does lack specificity concerning minor malformations.