The calcar avis is a mound of white matter formed by the development of the calcarine fissure. This fissure begins to develop at 16 weeks gestation and extends progressively deeply from the medial aspect of the occipital lobe towards the occipital horn of the lateral ventricles.

Around 27-28 weeks gestation, period of its maximum growth, the calcar avis can be very prominent, indenting into the medial surface of the occipital horn and may be confused with an intraventricular blood clot, depending on the depth of the infolding at the calcarine fissure, particularly on parasagittal scans, as described by us¹ and other authors. Here we present a case of a 27-week fetus in whom a parenchymal echogenic elongated image was detected in the transventricular axial plane.

This case illustrates that calcar avis can mimic not only an intraventricular bleeding but also a parenchymal lesion. Fetal cranial anatomical structures previously not visualized can now be clearly delineated by analysis of neurosonographic planes. Familiarity with these structures and their normal variants is important for proper interpretation of prenatal ultrasound findings.