Prenatal Diagnosis of Amniotic band syndrome: a case report

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**Introduction**

Amniotic band syndrome (ABS) is an uncommon congenital disorder that is characterized by the entrapment of some fetal parts with fibrotic bands in utero, especially the limb. Constriction caused by the amniotic band could produce distally-located edema which may eventually lead to self-amputation due to markedly reduced blood flow.

**Case Report**

A 32-year-old woman, gravida 3 para 1, who had received regular antepartum examinations at a local clinic, visited our outpatient unit for fetal Level II ultrasonography at 23 weeks of gestation. The ultrasound showed the presence of an irregular swollen mass measuring as 3.5x2.9 cm² in size over the left hand. There were metacarpal bones identified inside the mass [Figure 1]. Besides, a fractured point on the left distal forearm was also noticed [Figure 2].

The 3D surface rendering image revealed a tight constriction ring located at the distal forearm with marked swelling of the left hand [Figure 3]. We gave the expectant parents a detailed counseling accordingly. One day after, the parents decided to terminate this pregnancy. A demise fetus was delivered vaginally and had characteristic features consistent with ABS [Figure 4]. The nearly amputated left wrist and hand exhibited severe swelling with hematoma formation. Under close inspection, the thumb and fingers with nails were recognized. A narrow constriction ring around the wrist and the thumb was apparently caused by the entrapment of amniotic band.

**Conclusion**

An early diagnosis of ABS can be made prenatally by experienced obstetricians. Reconstructed images by 3D ultrasound technology are helpful to make a firm in utero diagnosis and to provide a proper communication with the family.