

BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Pregnancy Outcome in Uterine Anomalies

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ABSTRACT

Maternal with congenital anomalies are known to have higher incidence of infertility, intrauterine growth restriction, fetal malposition, preterm labor, preterm premature rupture of membrane and increased cesarean section rate.

Study Design: This is retrospective study, the pregnancies with uterine anomaly confirmed by ultrasound between Jan 2016 to Jan 2017 at our hospital was taken and its outcome is observed.

Results: The majority of preterm delivery in our study are mainly associated with septate and bicornuate uterus. Cesarean section comprised of 80% and its major indication is due to fetal malpresentation (breech). Thus Pregnancy outcomes of individual depending on the type of uterine anomalies.

Keywords: Malpresentation, Preterm birth, Preterm premature rupture of the membranes, Uterine anomalies.

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INTRODUCTION

Maldevelopment of Müllerian ducts occurs in a variety of forms, and each anomaly is distinctive. Various classifications of uterine malformation have been proposed. The one used by the American Fertility Society was established in 1988 (Fig. 1) based on the previous work of Bhuttram and Gibbons (1979).¹ The classification is into groups according to the degree of failure of normal development with similar clinical manifestations, treatment, and possible prognosis for their reproductive performance.² The four principal deformities that arise from defective Müllerian ducts (embryological ducts) steps are:

1. Agenesis of both ducts, either focally or along the entire duct length.
2. Unilateral maturation of one Mullerian duct with incomplete or absent development of the opposite side.

3. Absent or faulty midline fusion of the ducts.
4. Defective canalization.

The relationship between uterine anomalies and adverse pregnancy outcomes in the third trimester is less well studied. Authors who have found an association between uterine anomalies and preterm birth say that diminished muscle mass, particularly in a unicornuate uterus, plays an important role in the mechanism of preterm delivery.³ Uterine malformations with pregnancy are often revealed at the time of the first sonographic examination in early pregnancy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In this retrospective study, we tried to estimate the relationship between congenital uterine anomalies and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Our study comprised all pregnancies (>27 weeks of gestation age) with uterine anomalies confirmed by ultrasound, which underwent routine anatomic survey from January 2016 to January 2017 at our tertiary care center.

Gestational age was determined by the first day of the woman's last menstrual period (LMP). If the LMP-estimated due date was consistent (i.e., 5 days in the 1st trimester, 14 days in the 2nd trimester, and 21 days in the 3rd trimester) with the due date obtained from the first ultrasound, then the due date was not changed. If the due dates by LMP and first ultrasound were not consistent, then the ultrasound-obtained due date was used to define gestational age.

RESULTS

During 1 year, the total women with uterine anomalies are 10 (Table 1). It consists of four cases of arcuate uterus, three cases with bicornuate uterus, two cases of septate uterus, and one case of unicornuate uterus.

Table 2 shows that in four cases of arcuate uterus, two women had previous miscarriage, and one woman had children. A total of three women were diagnosed with bicornuate uterus, out of these two women have a child and one woman had previous miscarriage. In septate uterus, out of three women, two women had previous miscarriage.

In bicornuate uterus groups, uterus, the rates of preterm (66.6%) and two women had preterm premature rupture of the membranes (PPROM). Women with septate uterus had preterm delivery, out of which one woman had PPRM (Table 3).

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Fig. 1: Classification of congenital uterine anomalies according to the American Fertility Society (1988)

Table 1: Number of cases found during the study period

Type of anomaly	Number	Total
Arcuate	4	4
Bicornuate	3	7
Septate	2	9
Unicornuate	1	10

Table 3: Pregnancy outcome with uterine anomalies

Type of anomalies	PPROM	27–34 weeks	34–37 weeks	>37 weeks
Arcuate (n = 4)	0	0	0	4 (100%)
Bicornuate (n = 03)	2	0	2 (66.6%)	1 (33.3)
Septate (n = 02)	1	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0
Unicornuate (01)	0	0	0	01 (100%)

Table 4 shows that 8 women out of 10 underwent cesarean section and only two women had vaginal delivery. This is because of fetal malpresentation, i.e., mostly seen in uterine anomalies.

DISCUSSION

The early trimester ultrasound scans in our daily clinical work help in diagnosis of uterine anomalies in which more follow-ups are required; deliveries have to be done at higher centers to prevent maternal and fetal complications.

Our results show that arcuate uterus has a good outcome. All women with arcuate uterus have delivered fetus at full term. According to Raga et al,⁴ live birth rate (82.7%) of arcuate uterus is higher as compared with other uterine anomalies (bicornuate uterus of 62.5% and septate uterus of 62%).

In bicornuate uterus, two women had preterm delivery and all the women underwent cesarean section, which is

Table 2: Previous pregnancy outcomes with respect to uterine anomalies

Type of anomalies	Primi	Previous miscarriage	Living children	Total
Arcuate (n = 4)	1	2	1	4
Bicornuate (n = 03)	0	1	2	3
Septate (n = 02)	0	2	00	2
Unicornuate (01)	1	0	0	1

Table 4: Mode of delivery according to type of uterine anomalies

Type of anomalies	Malpresentation	Cesarean section	Vaginal delivery
Arcuate (n = 4)	1	2 (20%)	2 (20%)
Bicornuate (n = 3)	2	3 (30%)	0
Septate (n = 2)	1	2 (20%)	0
Unicornuate (1)	1	1 (10%)	0
Total		8 (80%)	2 (20%)

due to fetal malpresentation. In the study of Ludmir et al,⁵ it shows that pregnancy beyond 25 weeks of gestation has improved outcomes, but these are associated with high frequency of malpresentation and cesarean delivery. Premature rupture of membrane was high in our study (100%). In Hua et al⁶ study, 7% of uterine anomalies and 2% normal uterine morphologies had premature rupture of membranes, with p-value of <0.1, which was statistically significant.

Of septate uterus, both women had preterm delivery. According to Kupesic⁷ the thickness of septum has no influence on obstetric complication, but significantly higher prevalence of early pregnancy loss and late complication are seen more in vascularized septum than those with nonvascularized. In septate uterus, Hua et al⁶ shows 31% of prematurity and buttram shows 33% of prematurity and 67% of miscarriages.

The unicornuate uterus is the most uncommon uterine anomaly; our study had only one unicornuate uterus, which went up to term pregnancy with breech presentation and underwent cesarean section.

Ludir et al⁵ study shows that there is a high rate of pregnancy loss (80%) in unicornuate uterus.

The limitation of our study is that, as the sample size is small, we cannot draw any inference from our study.

CONCLUSION

Women with a uterine anomaly are at risk for premature rupture of membranes. This at-risk population needs further study for possible interventions that prevent this process.

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