FETAL MIDGUT VOLVULUS AT 29 WEEKS GESTATION - A CASE REPORT

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Fetal midgut volvulus is an uncommon cause of bowel obstruction, which is rarely detected by an antenatal ultrasound scan. We report a case with noticeable dilation of fetal stomach and small bowel presenting at 29 weeks of gestation during routine fetal examination. The abnormality revealed a whirlpool sign in fetal abdomen on ultrasonography which is strongly suggestive of midgut volvulus. The patient was then referred to a tertiary medical center for further investigation and monitoring. She discharged after 2 weeks of hospitalization. However she underwent preterm rupture of membranes 1 week later. An emergency cesarean section was then performed permitting the delivering of a 33-week age male infant, weighing 2300g. At the time of birth, the baby presented with respiratory distress, cyanosis and bowel distention. Endotracheal intubation was done. An emergency laparotomy was performed 1 day after, confirming midgut volvulus at the site of 30mm from the angle of Treitz with a 50cm ischemic necrotic segment of ileum. Diffuse peritonitis and pseudomembranes were also noted. The baby died 4 days later.