

## Heterotopic Pregnancy

Murad Ali\*, M.B;B.S.  
D.T.C.D.,  
and  
Mohammad Nawaz\*\*,  
M.B;B.S., D.M.R.D.  
Postgraduate Medical Institute,  
Lady Reading Hospital,  
Peshawar, Pakistan

### Summary

*The concurrent intrauterine and ectopic pregnancies are reported to have an incidence of only 1 in 30,000. The present case demonstrates the importance of careful search for adnexae for ectopic gestation in suspected cases even in the presence of intrauterine pregnancy.*

### Case Report

A 32 years old woman (G<sub>3</sub>P<sub>1+0+0+1</sub>) was referred to the Radiology department, L.R.H. Peshawar with the history of sudden onset of right lower quadrant pain for 7 hours prior to arrival. The pain radiated to the left side of the pelvis and the back. It was accompanied with vomiting, diarrhoea and spotting per vaginum. There was history of increasing weakness, giddiness and fainting attacks. The last menstrual period was 6 weeks prior to her arrival. The patient had not gone to any antenatal clinic. There was no history of taking any contraceptive pills. She was pale and had lower abdominal tenderness with guarding. Her haemoglobin was 8gm/dl. The sonogram showed enlargement of the uterus with a hypo-echoic, solid, contour-deforming mass (2.4 cmx1.8 cm) on the anterior fundal part. There was a well defined gestational sac in the uterus with fetal echoes.

A small complex mass was detectable in the right adnexal region. Free fluid was identified in the pelvis. The ultrasound impression was reported as Intrauterine pregnancy with ruptured ectopic pregnancy and fibroid uterus. At surgery, the ultrasound findings were confirmed. Following an uneventful recovery, the intrauterine pregnancy was carried to 37 weeks. The baby was

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\* Registrar and Incharge of Ultrasonography Section, Department of Radiology, Lady Reading Hospital.

\*\* Associate Professor & Head, Department of Radiology, Postgraduate Medical Institute and Consultant Radiologist, Lady Reading Hospital.

born alive.

### Discussion

Ultrasonography is widely used in medical practice to assess patients with suspected ectopic gestation. The sonographic diagnostic criteria are well known. Although the presence of an intrauterine pregnancy makes the diagnosis of an ectopic gestation unlikely, it by no means excludes this diagnosis. The concurrent intrauterine and ectopic pregnancies are reported to have an incidence of only 1 in 30,000. Recent studies have suggested that the incidence may well be considerably higher due to general increase in the incidence of the ectopic pregnancy. The number of recorded cases of combined pregnancy approaches 600. Less than 10% have been discovered pre-operatively. Ultrasound has contributed materially to our ability to detect this condition as demonstrated by previous case reports. A number of combined ectopic pregnancies with twin intrauterine foetuses have been recorded. A case of combined quadruplet gestation, with viable ectopic and concomitant intrauterine triplet pregnancies (an extraordinarily rare event) has also been reported

The presentation of this case demonstrates the importance of careful search for adnexae for ectopic gestation in suspected cases even in the presence of intrauterine pregnancy. A high index of suspicion should be maintained to detect this condition especially in practice with patients population having predisposing factors for the development of ectopic pregnancy.

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