Massive abruptio placentae associated with coagulopathy mimicking thrombohaematoma (Breus mole) : case report.

Authors: Burmagina Y., MD, OB-Gynae Dept., Dubai Hospital, Dubai, UAE

Case presentation: 26 years old, normotensive lady, G3 P2+0, 31 wks gestation attended A&E with complaints of severe abdominal pain. She denied any history of trauma. Examination revealed 30-32 wks sized, tender, “wooden” consistency uterus. Fetal heart couldn’t be detected. Placental abruption was suspected, so bedside ultrasound was done. It showed: anteriorly situated placenta, significantly enlarged by huge heterogeneous (mole-like) mass (8.8cm×8.4 cm) with round-shape anechoic lesions that could be distinguished within placenta. At the site of cord insertion a characteristic lesion with fluid-fluid level was found. Fetal demise was confirmed by Doppler exam. The sonographic findings were suggestive of thrombohaema-toma (Breus mole*), although further histopathology exam didn’t support such hypothesis.

Amniotomy revealed blood stained liquor. Pt progressed in labor and delivered fresh stillbirth baby. Placenta was delivered with huge retroplacental clot weighing 700 g. Pts work-up showed severe coagulopathy which was corrected in ICU settings.

* Breus’ mole (subchorionic haematoma)- is characterized as a large hematoma of maternal origin between chorionic plate and chorionic tissues, frequently associated with spontaneous abortion, preterm delivery, IUGR and IUFD.

Conclusion: Sonographic features of abruptio placentae comprise various patterns: from isoechoic mass to hypoechoic well defined lesion. The above described findings appear to be very interesting and distinguished, resembling the appearance of Breus’ mole. The fluid-fluid level lesion probably represents thrombotic changes along with haemorrhage within the villous unit. The literature review failed to show similar description in the context of massive placental abruption the significance of which is still to be studied.

Huge retroplacental haematoma measuring 88.4 mm in depth. Note heterogenous appearance of fresh clotted blood.

Round anechoic lesions ( red arrows) representing intervillous thrombus.

Centrally located intraplacental lesion with characteristic fluid-fluid level at the site of cord insertion (red arrows-fluid lesion), green arrows-cord insertion.

Macroscopic appearance of placenta. Note huge retroplacental clot.

Histopathology result: Placenta: Intervillous fibrin deposition with haemorrhage.
Membranes: Edema.