

Fetal supraventricular extrasystolies in a referral centre of fetal cardiology

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Objective: To review the cases of fetal supraventricular extrasystolies (SVEx) in a referral centre of fetal cardiology.

Material and method: We analyzed the results of echocardiographic examinations of 200 fetuses with supraventricular extrasystolies. Gestational age at diagnosis was 18 to 41 weeks (mean 31±5 weeks).

Results: 195 women were in single pregnancy. In 5 cases SVEx were diagnosed in one fetus of twin pregnancy. In 103 (51,5%) cases SVEx were multiple and in 97 (48,5%) single. 188 (94%) fetuses had normal heart anatomy. Heart defects were diagnosed in 12 (6%) cases (VSD - 5, ISVC - 2, TOF - 1, AT- 1, DORV - 1, AVSD - 1, TGA - 1). 64 (32%) fetuses with SVEx had atrial septal aneurysm. 11 (5,5%) cases of SVEx with normal heart anatomy were complicated by tachyarrhythmia: 10 (5%) fetuses developed intermittent supraventricular tachycardia and one (0,5%) intermittent atrial flutter. In remaining 189 fetuses the SVEx resolved spontaneously prior to delivery in 137 (72%) cases. In 15 (7,5%) fetuses multiple blocked atrial ectopic beats caused low ventricular rate below 100 bpm. 15 (7,5%) women had tocolysis with fenoterol when fetal SVEx were diagnosed.

Conclusions: SVEx are usually a benign condition, which resolves spontaneously prior to delivery. However in 5,5% they can progress to tachyarrhythmia and in 5% may be associated with heart defects. Atrial septal aneurysm was observed in 32% fetuses with SVEx.