Anticipating and Managing the Child and Family with Complex Congenital Anomalies

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Anticipating Complex Anomalies

• Why are we talking about this?
  » Congenital anomalies are seldom first diagnosed in the labor room.
  » Antenatal imaging techniques are increasingly accurate.
  » Antenatal diagnosis is made increasingly early.
  » The internet is a huge source of out-of-context misinformation.
  » We are sometimes a huge source of misinformation.
  » “Doctor” comes from the Latin verb, to teach
  » An educated consumer is a happy consumer.

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“Center for Pre-Natal Pediatrics”

Who is on the “team”?
  • Obstetrician
  • Perinatologist
  • Radiologist
  • Geneticist
  • Prenatal counselor
  • Neonatologist
  • Pediatrician
  • Many others
  • Pediatric surgeon

Anticipating Complex Anomalies

What are we going to talk about?

• Congenital diaphragmatic hernia
• Abdominal wall defects
• Congenital tumors
• Lung bud malformations
• Intestinal abnormalities

What are we going to talk about?

• What is it / are they?
• How is the diagnosis made?
• What should parents know?
• What can be done about it?
• What are the outcomes?

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Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia

What is it?

• Disturbed lung development early in gestation resulting from abnormal development of the diaphragm and causing a complex mix of pulmonary hypoplasia and pulmonary hypertension
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**Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia**

How is the diagnosis made?

- Polyhydramnios
- Fetal ultrasound
- Magnetic resonance imaging

What are we to do about it?

- Fetal intervention is contraindicated
- Elective vaginal delivery at term
- Pre-operative resuscitation until pulmonary hypertension resolves
- Permissive hypercapnea/spontaneous respiration
- Elective surgery
- Extracorporeal life support only if enough lung
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**Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia**

What should we tell parents?
- Embryology as we understand it
- Pathophysiology as we understand it
- Possible treatment algorithms
- Possible outcomes
- Misinformation correction
- Cautious optimism, not gloom and doom

What are the potential long term concerns?
- Cardiac
- Pulmonary
- Foregut
- Chest wall axial skeleton
- Neuromotor

**Abdominal Wall Defects**

What are they?
- Gastroschisis
  - Rupture of right vitelline vein with herniation of uncovered viscera to right of umbilicus
  - Usually isolated anomaly, occasional atresia, apple peel deformity
  - Serositis from amniotic fluid exposure; foreshortened gut
- Omphalocele
  - Herniation of viscera into umbilicus, covered by umbilical membranes
  - Often associated with other anomalies (cardiac, pulmonary, trisomy 21)

Both defects feature non-fixed midgut and result in loss of abdominal domain.

How is the diagnosis made?
- Ultrasound
- Chromosome analysis

**Gastroschisis**

![Gastroschisis Image](image1)

![Gastroschisis Image](image2)
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#### Abdominal Wall Defects

**What do we do about it?**
- Early delivery for gastroschisis if gut is very thickened (maybe), term for omphalocoe
- Caesarian section *may* be indicated
- Primary reduction and closure if possible
- Staged closure if large
- Respiratory and nutritional support
- No belly button

**What should parents know?**
- Most (not all) of these defects can be fixed
- Sometimes there is not enough midgut to support life
- Sometimes associated problems are limiting (pulmonary/cardiac)

**What are the long term problems?**
- Gastrointestinal/nutritional
- Intestinal obstruction
- Cardiac/pulmonary
- Psychiatric – no belly button!

**What are they?**
- Teratomas – sacrocoxygeal, etc.
- Mediastinal
- Neuroblastoma
- Cystic hygroma

**How is the diagnosis made?**
- CAT scan (baby only)
- MRI
- Ultrasound
- Serum markers
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sacrocoxygeal teratoma

What do we do about it?
- Diagnosis specific treatment at birth
- EtXra-uterine InTrapartum (EXIT)
- Anecdotal fetal intervention
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**Congenital Tumors**

What should parents know?

- Early diagnosis is an opportunity for education and treatment at birth
- Most congenital tumors, while frightening, are curable
- Cystic hygroma may be resolve before birth or be associated with genetic syndrome

What are the long term problems?

- Chemotherapy morbidity
- Operative morbidity
- Follow-up

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**Broncho-Pulmonary (Lung Bud) Malformations**

What are they?

This is a collection of structural anomalies that arise from disordered embryogenesis of the foregut/lung bud/circulation and feature disordered "cross-talk" between foregut endoderm and mesoderm.

- Congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation (CCAM)
- Bronchogenic cyst
- Pulmonary sequestration
- Congenital lobar emphysema

Broncho-Pulmonary Foregut Malformations

- Cystic adenomatoid malformation
- Bronchogenic cyst
- Lobar emphysema
- Pulmonary sequestration
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Bronch-Pulmonary(Lung Bud) Malformations

How is the diagnosis made?

- Ultrasound
- MRI

Anticipating Complex Anomalies
Bronch-Pulmonary(Lung Bud) Malformations

What do we do about it?

- Follow throughout pregnancy
- Confirm diagnosis at birth
- Not all need operation
- Surgery is rarely an emergency
- Anatomic resection vs enucleation
- Fetal intervention with progressive hydrops

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Bronch-Pulmonary(Lung Bud) Malformations

What should parents know?

- Arise from errors in embryogenesis very early
- Usually isolated
- Almost all survive
- May or may not need surgery
- Surgery is indicated for lung growth, cardiac compromise, infection
- Malignancy risk is real but extremely rare...and not limited to the malformation

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Intestinal Abnormalities

What are the ultrasound observations?

- Dilated bowel
- Echogenic bowel
- Intra-abdominal calcifications
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Duodenal Atresia

What do the ultrasound findings mean?
- Often, nothing, …but sometimes they do
- Atresias, duodenal and other
- Hirschsprung’s disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Ano-rectal malformations

What do we do about it?
- Chromosome analysis on parents and fetus
- Monitor renal images
- Detailed evaluation at birth
  - Physical exam
  - Radiology
- Surgery depends on diagnosis

What should parents know?
- Almost all of these diagnoses can be fixed.
- The repair depends on the diagnosis.
- The exact diagnosis can’t be made until birth.
- Some of the infants may have life-long nutritional concerns.

Summary

The important features of antenatal diagnosis are:
- Comprehensive multi-disciplinary consultation
- Parental education regarding what the problem is, where it came from, what can be done, how the story will end
- Correction of misinformation
- Plan for rare fetal intervention
- Coordination of multidisciplinary care for parents and child
- Plan elective delivery and care for child in a full service facility…as needed

Prenatal Tracheal Ligation
### Anticipating Complex Anomalies

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<th>Lung bud/broncho-pulmonary malformation</th>
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