



Fetal Transmission in a 26 Year Old Primigravida with Fibromuscular Dysplasia

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Abstract

Evidence for fetal transmission with the extrauterine environment has been reported rarely in the literature. Here, we report a well-documented case of a 26 year old primigravida patient who experienced pregestational fetal communication. We also discuss the comorbidity of fibromuscular dysplasia (FMD).

Clinical Image

We report a case of a 26 year old primigravida with an asymptomatic and undiagnosed abdominal routine antenatal care and serial ultrasound reports. She presented for a routine antenatal care visit at 31 weeks of gestation. While in side position on the ultrasound table, the ultrasound technician inadvertently performed a repetitive percussion with the head of the probe, resulting in a “Knock Knock” on the abdominal wall. A few seconds later, both the technician and the patient clearly understood the fetal response “Who is there?”, it is unclear whether this was verbal or telepathic communication. The ultrasound technician replied, in jest, “banana”, to which again the reply “Banana who?” or possibly “Banana Joe” was understood. After the mother’s reply “Aren’t you happy it is your mummy mom?”, no further communication was noted. Unfortunately, we did not see an indication to use onabotulinum toxin [1-3]. The actual ultrasound was unremarkable (Figure 1). Delivery of a healthy male infant was spontaneous, vaginal and at term; her recovery was uneventful and mother and child were discharged on the second post-partum day, in good condition.

Discussion

This is to our best knowledge, the first report of sustained maternal-fetal bidirectional communication. It is unclear whether this was verbal or telepathic communication [4]. It is furthermore unclear whether reference was made to an Italian movie [5], a movie that - as the author later learned - was unknown to the mother and, presumably, to the fetus as well. The possible contribution by the patient’s comorbidity of FMD is complex and almost impossible to delineate. That spontaneous cervical artery dissection, as has been described by others during pregnancy [6], would be responsible for this extraordinary phenomenon remains speculative.

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Figure 1: 3 dimensional fetal ultrasound at 31 weeks.

This case demonstrates the importance of compassion during pregnancy and delivery, even outside of the context of monozygotic twin sisters [7]. Further research is needed on modalities and content of transuterine maternal-fetal transmission.

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