

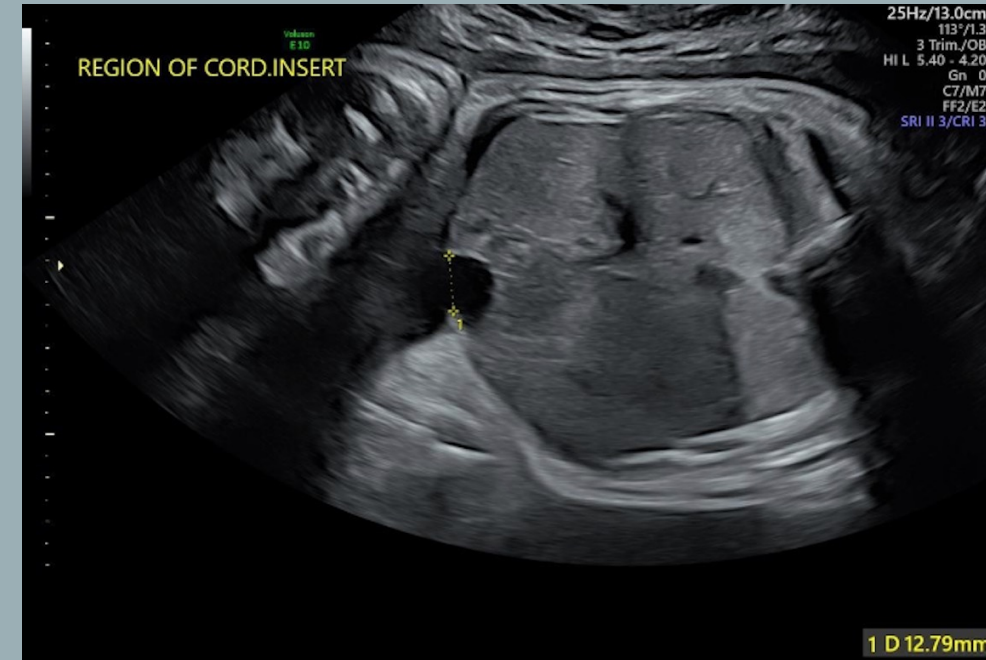
# CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ISOLATED FINDING OF FETAL INTRA-ABDOMINAL UMBILICAL VEIN VARIX (FIUVV) – A CASE REPORT

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**Background** – FIUVV is a sonographic diagnosis based on focal dilatation in the umbilical vessels. The natural history, etiology and pathophysiology are poorly understood. Classically, it has been associated with fetal abnormality and high risk of stillbirth. We present a case of an isolated finding of FIUVV in an otherwise healthy 33 year old primigravida.

**Case** – Our case exhibited a low risk pregnancy throughout the first and second trimester periods. A third trimester ultrasound showed normal fetal growth and wellbeing parameters, however noted the proximal umbilical vein is dilated measuring 13mm in diameter with no evidence of thrombus formation. Thus showing an isolated diagnosis of a FIUVV. Ongoing fetal monitoring was unremarkable and subsequent labour uneventful. No gross abnormality of umbilical cord were seen on inspection.

**Discussion** – FIUVV is an uncommon antenatal finding with poorly understood etiology, uncertain clinical significance and unclear management options. With advances and wide use of ultrasound, more cases of FIUVV have been reported. Thus, it is important to understand appropriate management of FIUVV. Although isolated FIUVV seems to bear favourable neonatal outcomes, close monitoring of fetal welfare with CTG and ultrasound is essential to identify ominous signs. Conservative management is appropriate, as performed in our case



Ultrasound image showing fetal umbilical vein dilation