

Title: The management of a pregnancy in the third trimester presenting with a neurological emergency –CASE REPORT

INTRODUCTION- Neurological emergencies are uncommon in pregnancy. Patients may be asymptomatic or present with neurological deficit due to spinal cord compression. Herein we present a case of SEL diagnosed and managed during third trimester of pregnancy.

PRESENTATION OF THE CASE-A 29 year old G4P3L1D2 with 32 weeks gestation presented with acute onset of weakness in bilateral lower limbs and retention of urine . On examination the power in bilateral lower limbs was decreased 0/5 and 1/5 on right and left side respectively and sensory system is intact.MRI showed a large lesion extending upto neural foramina on right side and through the neural foramina on the left , predominantly at D9-D11 reaching prevertebral space on left side- possibility of spinal epidural hemangioma. As there is neurological deterioration and since the pregnancy is past the period of viability, elective cesarean delivery was performed in supine position. Male baby was delivered with APGAR 7 AND 9/10 and a birth weight of 2kgs.

The patient was then turned to prone position, and a D6-D11 laminectomy with excision of lesion was performed. The day after surgery the power in bilateral lower limbs was improved. Histopathology report was suggestive of lipoma. On the day after surgery there is significant neurological improvement.

DISCUSSION-Treatment of neurological emergencies in pregnancy poses a great challenge and needs to be planned taking into consideration of the clinical condition of the pregnant woman, gestational age, prognosis of the disease, positioning during surgery and type of anesthesia and the associated risks. The literature clearly demonstrates that a pregnancy at any stage is not a contraindication to surgical intervention. But during surgery in a pregnant woman, special attention is necessary to avoid causing fetal injury.

CONCLUSION-With careful planning and timely intervention it is possible to safeguard mother and deliver a viable fetus in case of a neurological emergency during pregnancy

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