Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prenatal diagnosis of a “living” oropharyngeal fetus in fetu: A case report

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Pro. Paolo Cavoretto and reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Prenatal diagnosis of a “living” oropharyngeal fetus in fetu: A case report" (PRCH-D-19-01237). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. Revised portion are marked in red in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer’s comments are as flowing:

1. Question 1 was not answered by the authors with particular regard to effectiveness of prenatal diagnosis of the condition. It is probably low for milder form, and the authors should focus on the need to stimulate prenatal diagnoses of severe cases like the one in object in which a negative prognosis is expected. This is relevant in order to offer to the parents the reasonable option of early termination.

Respond: We are sorry not to answer the question 1 by mistake although we indeed adding some background about the topic. As reviewer suggested we added “Prenatal ultrasound is a useful tool to identify well developed organs in the FIF, evaluate the size and spatial relationship of the mass, and help to guide the ex utero intrapartum treatment procedure for newborn FIF [6-7], or offer the reasonable option of early termination.” In the introduction.

2. abstract: the conclusion is unclear and needs rephrasing. Example: "Prenatal ultrasound can identify rudimentary organs suspecting FIF from early pregnancy. Detection of fetal heart beat facilitates differential diagnosis with teratomas (note to be reported int he main text, not in the abstract : in which this is not present), providing essential information for parental consulting and management."
Respond: As suggested, we modified this sentence in the abstract.

3. Intro. The last period is unclear and needs rephrasing eg : "FIF is a rare malformation, generally acardiac and anencephalic, with frequent localization in the retroperitoneum"

Respond: As suggested, we modified this sentence in the introduction.

4. Add in the discussion that we may hypothesize that in severe cases like the one presented here, the condition may be suspected in the first trimester at the time of first trimester screening, if such essential examination is performed and if trained operators are involved. Please add a comment on that.

Respond: As suggested, we added “we may hypothesize that in severe cases like the one presented here, the condition may be suspected in the first trimester at the time of first trimester screening, if such essential examination is performed and if trained operators are involved.” in the discussion.

5. Please modify lines 31-38: rephrasing is required to improve English language. Please conclude the paper with a statement similar to that of the abstract: Prenatal ultrasound can identify rudimentary organs suspecting FIF from early pregnancy. Detection of fetal heart beat facilitates differential diagnosis with teratomas providing essential information for parental consulting and management.

Respond: As suggested, we deleted lines 31-38 and conclude with a statement similar to that of the abstract: Prenatal ultrasound can identify rudimentary organs suspecting FIF from early pregnancy. Detection of fetal heart beat facilitates differential diagnosis with teratomas providing essential information for parental consulting and management.

6. Picture: increase magnification of picture B to show the region of interest, nobody is interested in the placenta or AF here. Please be more symmetric with respect to picture A (similar magnification)

Respond: As suggested, we magnified the picture B.