

Obstetric Case 12

July 2024

Clinical history:

38 y/o female. Dating scan



Please attempt the following:

1. Describe this abnormality – what are the features present?
2. What is the diagnosis?
3. What are the risk factors for developing this condition?

Do not progress to next slide until you have attempted to answer the previous questions.

Question 1

Absent cranial vault
Also known as acrania

Question 2

Anencephaly

Question 3

Low folate - anencephaly is a neural tube disorder (NTD)

Poorly controlled diabetes

Epilepsy medication

Obesity

Anencephaly Fact File

- The cranium fails to develop and the exposed brain tissue is gradually destroyed by mechanical and chemical effects of amniotic fluid
- Effects around 1 in 1000 pregnancies
- More common in females
- 25 - 50% more likely to occur along familial lines
- Defect will be present from 3rd or 4th week of gestation
- Poor prognosis with 100% mortality in utero or shortly after birth
- AFP raised in 90% of women with a pregnancy affected by anencephaly