

Abnormalities of the Placenta

Placental abnormalities are common and can lead to complications during pregnancy and delivery. These include placental previa, placental abruption, and placental insufficiency.

Placental previa occurs when the placenta is positioned low in the uterus, partially or completely covering the cervix. This can lead to painless vaginal bleeding in the third trimester. Management depends on the type and severity of the previa, with some cases requiring cesarean delivery.

Placental abruption is the premature separation of the placenta from the uterine wall before delivery. It is a medical emergency characterized by painless vaginal bleeding, abdominal pain, and a tender, rigid uterus. Immediate delivery is often required to prevent maternal and fetal complications.

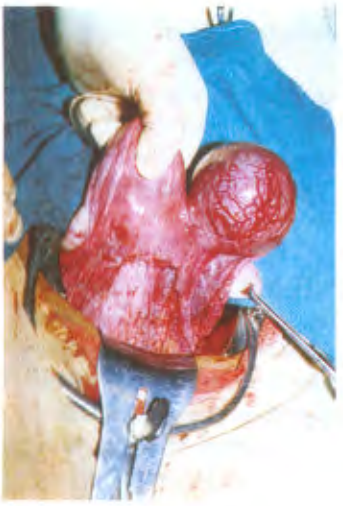


Figure 1: Placental abnormalities and fetus.

Placental insufficiency is a condition where the placenta does not provide enough oxygen and nutrients to the fetus. This can lead to fetal growth restriction, stillbirth, and preterm delivery. The exact cause is often unknown, but it can be associated with maternal conditions like hypertension and diabetes.

Management of placental insufficiency involves close monitoring of the fetus and the mother. In severe cases, early delivery may be necessary to prevent complications.

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