

## Gravid Uterus in an Incisional Hernia after Pfannenstiel incision - Case Report

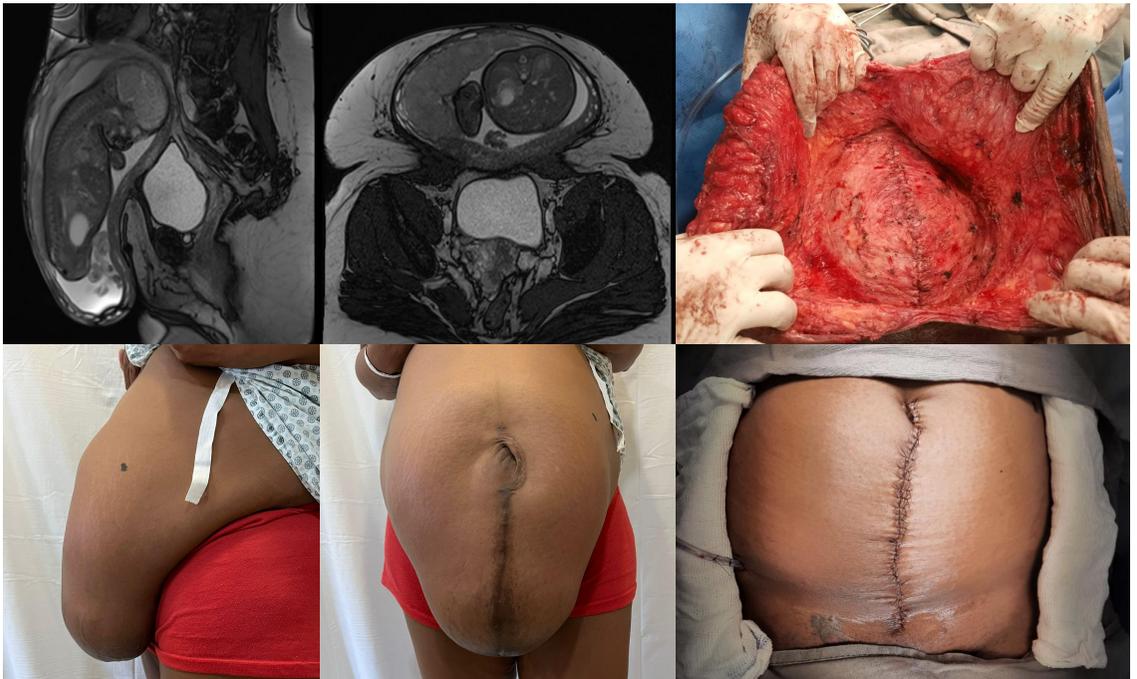
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**Aim:** Hernias containing a gravid uterus are extremely rare; moreover, they significantly affect gestational progress and maternal-fetal health, causing significant distress and increasing pregnancy morbidity(1). We aim to report an unprecedented case with unexpected outcomes that may guide future management in similar cases.

**Materials and Methods:** Data were obtained retrospectively through the patient's medical records. A search for similar cases was conducted in the main scientific databases.

**Results:** A 34-year-old female patient was referred with the diagnosis of an incisional hernia due to an oophorectomy performed through Pfannenstiel incision. At the time, the patient was pregnant and progressed with protrusion of the uterus through the hernia. A laparotomy for hernia repair was planned in collaboration with the obstetric team after 32 weeks, being closely monitored until that date. Intrauterine death of unknown cause happened at 30 weeks. Therefore, the obstetric team proceeded with stillborn removal by cesarean section, and our surgical team proceeded with exploration of the hernia, dermolipectomy, closure of the abdominal wall with an onlay polypropylene mesh and drain placement. The patient had a good postoperative recovery and no complications during follow-up.

**Conclusions:** Complications arising from this condition remain uncertain, and management of these patients requires further study, given the significant impact on both the physical and mental health of the maternal-fetal dyad. Although other studies suggest that the management of incisional hernias during pregnancy may result in unfavorable outcomes, the case presented here indicates that some patients could benefit from early interventions.



**References:** 1. Deka D, Banerjee N, Takkar D. Incarcerated pregnant uterus in an incisional hernia. *Int J Gynecol Obstet.* 2000;70(3):377-9. doi: 10.1016/s0020-7292(00)00210-1. 2. Oma E, Jensen KK, Jorgensen LN. Increased risk of ventral hernia recurrence after pregnancy: a nationwide register-based study. *Am J Surg.* 2017;214(3):474-8. doi: 10.1016/j.amjsurg.2017.03.044. 3. Saha PK, Rohilla M, Prasad GR, Dhaliwal LK, Gupta I. Herniation of gravid uterus: report of 2 cases and review of literature. *MedGenMed.* 2006;8(4):14. 4. Bosanquet DC, Ansell J, Abdelrahman T, et al. Systematic review and meta-regression of factors affecting midline incisional hernia rates: analysis of 14,618 patients. *PLoS One.* 2015;10(9):e0138745. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0138745. 5. Pereira C, Gururaj S. Onlay versus sublay mesh repair for incisional hernias: a systematic review. *Cureus.* 2023;15(1):e34156. doi: 10.7759/cureus.34156.