

Persistent cloaca: are we ready for a correct prenatal diagnosis?

Zaccara A, Gatti C, Silveri M, Rivosecchi M, Bilancioni E, Spina V, Giorlandino C, De Gennaro M, Bagolan P.

Department of Paediatric Surgery, Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, Rome, Italy.

Cloacal malformations are rare and can present in variable aspects. The importance of ultrasound in detecting these anomalies is well known. Sonographic features vary in accordance with the type of malformation and the gestational age. A positive diagnosis is not possible because of the lack of specific ultrasound findings, which can show similar aspects to other abnormalities. We present 3 cases of prenatal diagnosis of this malformation, emphasizing that in the presence of a plurilobed cystic pelvic fetal mass with associated malformations, such as cardiac, renal, and vertebral anomalies, a persistent cloaca can reasonably be suspected.