

Fetal surgery

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Fetal surgery is a new frontier of medicine; it has been developed in the last few years and now it has several applications in pathologies such as

congenital diaphragmatic hernia or myelomeningocele. We here propose these suggestive images.

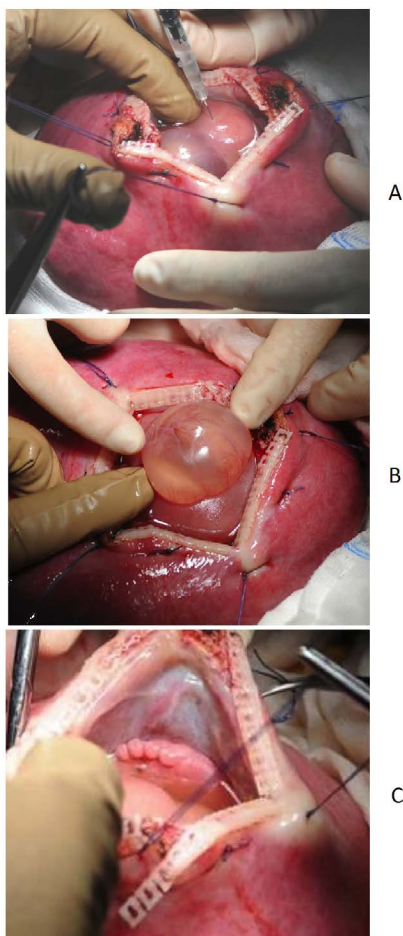


Figure 1. Open fetal surgery for myelomeningocele (MMC).

Panel A. The maternal uterus is open and the 23-week fetus' lesion is visible. Intramuscular (intragluteal) injection of neuromuscular relaxants, fentanyl type opiates, directly to the fetus is provided to prevent fetal pain and hormonal stress response, to allow surgical access to the fetus and to inhibit fetal movement during surgery.

Panel B. Exposure of the lesion, the lumbar MMC, for surgical repair.

Panel C. Fetal foot position, after fetal surgical procedure and before uterine closure, shows the adequate management of maternal-fetal anesthesia and relaxation.

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