

4th International Conference on Pediatrics and Neonatal Care

July 23-24, 2025 | Paris, France



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Fetal Presentation of MYRF-Related Cardiac Urogenital Syndrome: An Emerging and Challenging Prenatal Diagnosis

Purpose

MYRF-related cardiac-urogenital syndrome (MYRF-CUGS) is a rare condition associated with heterozygous MYRF variants. The description of MYRF-CUGS phenotype is mostly based on postnatal cases and 36 affected individuals have been published so far. We aim now to delineate the prenatal phenotype of MYRF-CUGS by reporting clinical data from fetuses and neonates with a pathogenic MYRF variant.

Methods

Detailed radiographic, pathological, clinical, and molecular data from 12 prenatal cases were collected through an international collaborative study. Adding the five fetuses previously published, we were able to study a cohort of 17 cases.

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Results

Main ultrasound-accessible manifestations of MYRF-CUGS include congenital heart defects (CHD) (13/17, 76%), congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) (10/17, 59%) and disorders of sexual differentiation (DSD) in 46, XY fetuses (7/14; 50%). Postnatal examination and/or autopsy data highlighted additional birth defects and neurological findings with a large spectrum of severity. In total, including pre- and early post-natal findings, we confirmed fetal clinical expression of MYRF-CUGS with a recurrent malformative association, including CHD (15/17, 88%), CDH (12/17, 71%), pulmonary hypoplasia (10/17, 59%) and DSD in 46, XY fetuses (11/14, 79%). The risk of associated developmental delay and intellectual disability (DD/ID) appear to be high (75%, 3/4 living cases from our cohort) and consistent with percentages reported in the literature in postnatal cohorts. Although MYRF is known to be involved in the fetal and early post-birth ocular development, the reproducibility of a prenatal nanophthalmos phenotype needs more investigation. We reported five new inherited cases with extreme intrafamilial variable expressivity. Molecular results revealed ten previously unpublished variants, one missense and nine predicted truncating variants (three frameshift, three nonsense and three splice site variants). Phenotype-genotype correlations were unclear and syndromic MYRF-CUGS seems to be linked to MYRF haploinsufficiency.

Conclusion

We report the first prenatal cohort of MYRF-CUGS, allowing us to further characterize the variable expressivity of this rare disorder in fetuses. Severe congenital anomalies with a poor prognosis are more frequent than previously described in postnatal cases. Our data suggest that MYRF-CUGS is characterized by a recurrent recognizable malformative association, accessible to prenatal diagnosis, with a significant intrafamilial phenotypic variability making genetic counseling challenging.