

72615_Auto_Edited.docx

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 72615

Manuscript Type: CASE REPORT

Effectiveness and Safety of Ultrasound-Guided Intramuscular Lauromacrogol Injection Combined with Hysteroscopy in Cervical Pregnancy Treatment: A Case Report and Literature Review

Jian-Pei Ye, Yang Gao, Li-Wei Lu, Yong-Ju Ye

Abstract

BACKGROUND

Cervical pregnancy is increasing in morbidity, and a definite diagnosis in early stages is challenging due to its specific onset site. Surgery is the mainstay of treatment for cervical pregnancy, but it may result in the loss of natural fertility. So it is a great challenge to pursue a safe and effective treatment for cervical pregnancy.

CASE SUMMARY

We report the case of a cervical pregnancy successfully treated with ultrasound-guided cervical-intramuscular lauromacrogol injection combined with hysteroscopy. A 23-year-old woman with minor irregular vaginal bleeding was admitted to our Department with suspected ectopic pregnancy. Transvaginal ultrasound revealed a gestational sac (approximately 22 x13 mm) situated in the cervical canal with a yolk sac and blood flow signals. No cardiac activity was detected. Serum beta progesterone (P) was 17.06 ng/mL, and serum beta human chorionic gonadotropin (β -HCG) was 5077.0 IU/L. The patient was diagnosed with cervical pregnancy. She was treated with ultrasound-guided cervical-intramuscular injections of lauromacrogol (3 mL) in combination with aborting under hysteroscopic. A gradual decrease in β -HCG levels and normal ultrasound findings were observed. Postoperative pathologic examination showed the

presence of villi and changes in the endometrium in the secretory phase. The patient was discharged on day 6, and her β -HCG level was 0.67 mIU/mL after one week. There was no statistical difference between baseline and 1-week postoperative data in terms of serum indices including liver function, renal function, and routine blood analysis after treatment. The patient subsequently became pregnant two months later and no abnormalities were detected on routine screening during pregnancy.

CONCLUSION

Ultrasound-guided cervical-intramuscular lauromacrogol injection combined with hysteroscopy may be effective and safe in the treatment of cervical pregnancy.

Key Words: Cervical pregnancy; Lauromacrogol; Hysteroscopy; Effectiveness; Safety

ye JP, gao Y, lu LW, ye YJ. Effectiveness and Safety of Ultrasound-Guided Intramuscular Lauromacrogol Injection Combined with Hysteroscopy in Cervical Pregnancy Treatment: A Case Report and Literature Review. *World J Clin Cases* 2022; In press

Core Tip: This study reports a typical clinical case of cervical pregnancy who received a conservative treatment combining ultrasound-guided lauromacrogol injection with hysteroscopy. The effectiveness and safety of the conservative treatment were evaluated, and the patient obtained a good outcome.

INTRODUCTION

Cervical pregnancy is a type of ectopic pregnancy associated with induced abortion, diagnostic curettage, cesarean section, spontaneous abortion, cervical surgery and assisted reproductive technology [1-2]. It results in increased morbidity and is diagnosed in around 0.15% of all ectopic pregnancies[3]. A definite diagnosis in the early stages is challenging due to the specific onset site. It is commonly diagnosed by ultrasound

because of vaginal bleeding^[4], and is often accompanied by critical medical conditions. Surgery is the mainstay in the conventional management of cervical pregnancy, but tends to cause cervical adhesions and decreased function, resulting in the loss of natural fecundity. With significant advances in clinical diagnostic techniques and a growing demand for fertility, non-invasive or minimally invasive surgery has attracted increasing attention^[5]. Currently, conservative treatment combining a local injection of methotrexate (MTX) or potassium chloride, oral mifepristone and hysteroscopy is commonly used for cervical pregnancy with good efficacy^[6-9]. However, high drug doses may induce damage to liver and renal function, as well as female fertility. In this context, it is challenging to develop a conservative treatment with a good safety profile^[10].

Here, we report a typical case of cervical pregnancy treated with ultrasound-guided lauromacrogol injection combined with hysteroscopy. The effectiveness and safety were evaluated and the patient had a good outcome.

CASE PRESENTATION

Chief complaints

The patient was 23 years old. She previously had 5 pregnancies and 5 abortions, including 1 ectopic pregnancy. She had menopause for 39 days, a little irregular vaginal bleeding for 10 days, and the last menstruation was recorded on January 23, 2020. She visited our hospital on March 2, 2020 due to similar symptoms and serum beta progesterone (P) was 17.06 ng/mL, beta human chorionic gonadotropin (β -HCG) was 5077.0 IU/L. The patient was diagnosed with cervical pregnancy by transvaginal ultrasound (Figure 1), and was hospitalized.

History of present illness

She had menopause for 39 days, a little irregular vaginal bleeding for 10 days, and the last menstruation was recorded on January 23, 2020.

History of past illness

She had 5 intrauterine pregnancies including 1 tubal ectopic pregnancy, but no delivery.

Personal and family history

No abnormality in personal and family history

Physical examination

Physical examination showed that ¹her blood pressure was 122/83 mmHg, pulse rate was 89 bpm, temperature was 37.4°C and respiratory rate was 20 breaths/min.

Obstetrical examination included non-vaginal delivery, smooth vagina, slight bleeding, smooth and full cervix with no pain when held, severe uterine anteversion without tenderness, and normal bilateral fallopian tubes and ovaries.

Laboratory examinations

serum beta progesterone (P) was 17.06 ng/mL, beta human chorionic gonadotropin (β -HCG) was 5077.0 IU/L.

Imaging examinations

Uterine 3-dimensional B-ultrasound was scheduled for the following day, and a gestational sac (approximately 22x13 mm) was situated in the cervical canal with a yolk sac and blood flow signals inside (Figure 2). Transvaginal ultrasound-guided tunnel puncture was thus arranged after routine disinfection using a 21G-EV type needle. Approximately 2 mL fluid was obtained from the mass. Multiple lauromacrogol injections (3 mL) were performed targeting the cystic wall and cavity. No pain or bleeding at the puncture area was observed during and after treatment. Postoperative ultrasound revealed the absence of blood flow signals around the gestational sac (Figure 3). The patient was then transferred to the ward.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS

The patient was diagnosed with cervical pregnancy.

TREATMENT

At 15:09 on March 4, aborting under hysteroscopic was performed under general anesthesia with intubation. A villous tissue block (approximately 1x1.5 cm) was present and removed (around 8 g) after intramuscular injection of 3U pitavastatin and 1-week with a suction tube. Further hysteroscopy revealed a rough cervical canal with a little bleeding, and balloon compression for hemostasis was provided. The procedure was uneventful and the intraoperative blood loss was approximately 50 mL. On March 5, no abnormalities were observed on B-ultrasound (Figure 4). HCG was 2049.0 IU/L on March 6, 1213.0 IU/L on March 7, 496.6 IU/L on March 9 and 0.68 IU/L on March 17. No abnormalities were detected in the uterine cavity on transvaginal ultrasound on March 6, and postoperative pathologic examination on March 17 showed the presence of villi and changes in the endometrium in the secretory phase (Figure 5).

In addition, there were no significant differences between baseline and 1-week postoperative data with regard to serum indices including liver function, renal function, and routine blood analysis (Table 1).

At follow-up, the patient had normal menstruation on April 12, with a normal volume and color, which finished within 5 days (Table 2).

There were 5-7 antral follicles in the left ovary and 6-8 follicles in the right ovary. The endometrium was 11 mm/2 thick on the 15th day of menstruation. On September 18, 2020 (day 79 of subsequent pregnancy), nuchal translucency examination suggested normal fetal development (Figure 6). No abnormalities were observed on routine screening during pregnancy. A live healthy infant was delivered on April 8, 2021.

OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

Reproductive hormones, antral follicle count and endometrium all recovered to normal values, and no impairment of liver and renal function was observed after treatment. These findings indicate that lauromacrogol injection combined with hysteroscopy is

effective and safe in the treatment of cervical pregnancy, and does not have adverse effects on fertility. Gestational and postnatal examination showed subsequent normal fetal development. Thus, no short-term adverse effects were observed following this treatment strategy and subsequent pregnancy can be expected.

DISCUSSION

Cervical pregnancy is mainly composed of fibrous connective tissue. It can cause compromised cervical contractions and a high risk of extensive bleeding^[11]. Inappropriately managed, the outcome can be catastrophic. Conventional treatment mainly includes hysterectomy. With improvements in clinical diagnostic techniques and an increasing demand for fertility, non-invasive or minimally invasive surgery is preferred by both doctors and families. Therefore, the hysterectomy rate significantly decreased from 89.5% in 1979 to 21.7% in 1994^[12]. Conservative treatments mainly include MTX + curettage + interventional embolization + mifepristone or potassium chloride, local injection of vasoconstrictor, ligation of the uterus, blood vessels and internal iliac artery, cervical cerclage, cervical Foley tube tamponade, electrosurgical excision and radiofrequency ablation^[10,13-15]. However, the safety of conservative treatment has been less studied. MTX and mifepristone are commonly used drugs with definite efficacy in the treatment of cervical pregnancy. However, in the context of a high dose, patients can develop nausea, vomiting or impaired liver and renal function, in addition to unpredictable fertility. It was reported that a minimum 3-month interval after MTX application is required for a subsequent pregnancy^[16].

Lauro-macrogol is a novel vascular sclerosant harboring hydrophilic and lyophilic groups, which conform to a directional alignment on a liquid surface to allow a significant decline in surface tension. It is important in sclerotherapy, as it can cause sterile inflammation with the groups which can help obtain protein precipitation in several seconds and thus cause damage to the lipid bilayer of the cell membrane, thereby leading to fibrous tissue hyperplasia and adhesions^[17-18]. In addition, it has great applications in digestive, cardiovascular and nervous system diseases^[19-20].

However, there is a paucity of reports on lauromacrogol as a hemostatic agent in ectopic pregnancy. Shuang-shuang Wei *et al*^[21] previously adopted ultrasound-guided local lauromacrogol injection plus suction curettage in the treatment of type II cesarean scar pregnancy with a favorable therapeutic outcome, but the safety of lauromacrogol was not evaluated.

Our patient had 5 intrauterine pregnancies including 1 tubal ectopic pregnancy, but no delivery. Considering the strong will of the patient and her family for fertility preservation, an attempt was made to decrease the blood supply in the gestational sac using local injections of lauromacrogol, instead of uterine artery embolization, combined with the HCG index and ultrasound-guided intervention. It has been established that lauromacrogol can block the blood circulation of the embryo and cervical vein without interfering with the blood supply to the ovary. The sclerosis and hemostasis induced by lauromacrogol are mainly realized in the following two ways: Vascular lauromacrogol injection can cause direct damage to vascular endothelial cells in attached veins at the site of injection, allowing local thrombosis, the formation of a protective layer for fibrous tissue surrounding the ruptured vessels and an increase in vascular resistance. In that way, hemostasis can be obtained by regional vascular compression contributing to decreased blood flow. In addition, lauromacrogol injection can cause superficial small areas of fibrosis in veins around the injection site, resulting in vascular compression and occlusion^[22]. Here, B-ultrasound 24 h after lauromacrogol injection showed no blood supply to the gestational sac. Hysteroscopic curettage was instantly performed with a little intraoperative bleeding. This suggested the favorable vascular stiffening and rapid onset of action (3-24 h) of lauromacrogol, which greatly decreased intraoperative bleeding, shortened the time to curettage and increased the success rate^[23]. Lauromacrogol is also a type of local anesthetic that can achieve local analgesia and alleviate discomfort in patients during treatment. Polycinol injection combined with uterine curettage under ultrasound intervention for cesarean scar pregnancy has no significant effect on endometrial thickness and scar thickness in patients. After the operation, the blood supply to the uterine scar recovers well, and the

menstrual recovery time is significantly shorter than that following MTX treatment. In addition, the fertility of patients can be well preserved^[24].

Liver and renal function in our patient were also evaluated and showed no difference before and after treatment. Consistent with existing literature, lauromacrogol had no adverse effects on the liver and kidneys. Similar results were observed for reproductive hormones, ovarian volume, antral follicle count, and the endometrium, resulting in a well preserved uterus and ovarian physiological functions. The patient had normal menstruation 40 days after treatment. She conceived naturally after 2 mo with normal fetal development (Figure 6) and successful delivery.

CONCLUSION

The present case demonstrated the effectiveness and safety of lauromacrogol injection plus hysteroscopy in the treatment of cervical pregnancy, which had no adverse effects on liver and renal function, fertility, and fetal development following subsequent conception. This treatment strategy deserves to be promoted and applied in the clinic. Lauromacrogol, a sclerosant, used to treat cystic disease or vascular disease has certain adverse reactions, such as low-grade fever, local pain, venous embolism and anaphylactic reaction, most of which are mild and self-limited. However, there is a risk of serious adverse reactions during the treatment of venous disease, and the occurrence of adverse heart events should be prevented^[25]. Further research on clinical indications, contraindications and its potential as a replacement for conventional hemostatic agents and blasticidin is necessary.

ORIGINALITY REPORT

1%

SIMILARITY INDEX

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov Internet	13 words — 1%
---	--	---------------

EXCLUDE QUOTES ON
EXCLUDE BIBLIOGRAPHY ON

EXCLUDE MATCHES < 1%