

CHAOS

US image obtained in a 25-week fetus with Congenital High Airway Obstruction Syndrome (CHAOS). Both lungs appear severely enlarged resulting in the heart being squeezed between the lungs into the middle of the fetal mediastinum evidenced by a reduction in the cardiac angle (mediastinal shifting).



Tracheal obstruction

CHAOS is characterized by retention of bronchial and alveolar secretions resulting in elevated intratracheal pressure and a significant increase in the amount of fluid within the lungs and tracheobronchial tree. This leads to severely increased lung volume and tracheal dilatation.



Laryngeal atresia

Sagittal view of the fetal thorax shows a hyperexpanded and hyperechoic lung with ascites as an incipient sign of hydrops.



Tracheal obstruction

Coronal view of the fetal thorax shows expanded and hyperechoic lungs with a flattened diaphragm and bifurcation of the trachea at the level of the carina in the two bronchi.



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This picture illustrates a fetus displaying the sonographic characteristics of tracheal obstruction; uniformly hyperechoic and enlarged lungs, tracheal and bronchial dilatation, eversion of the diaphragm, and ascites.



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Parasagittal view of the fetal thorax in a case with tracheal obstruction. Note the hyperechoic and enlarged lung with eversion of the diaphragm, and ascites.



Illustrative sonographic image of a case with tracheal atresia. The affected lung appears hyperexpanded and hyperechoic, tracheal dilatation below the obstruction appears as a bronchogram.

