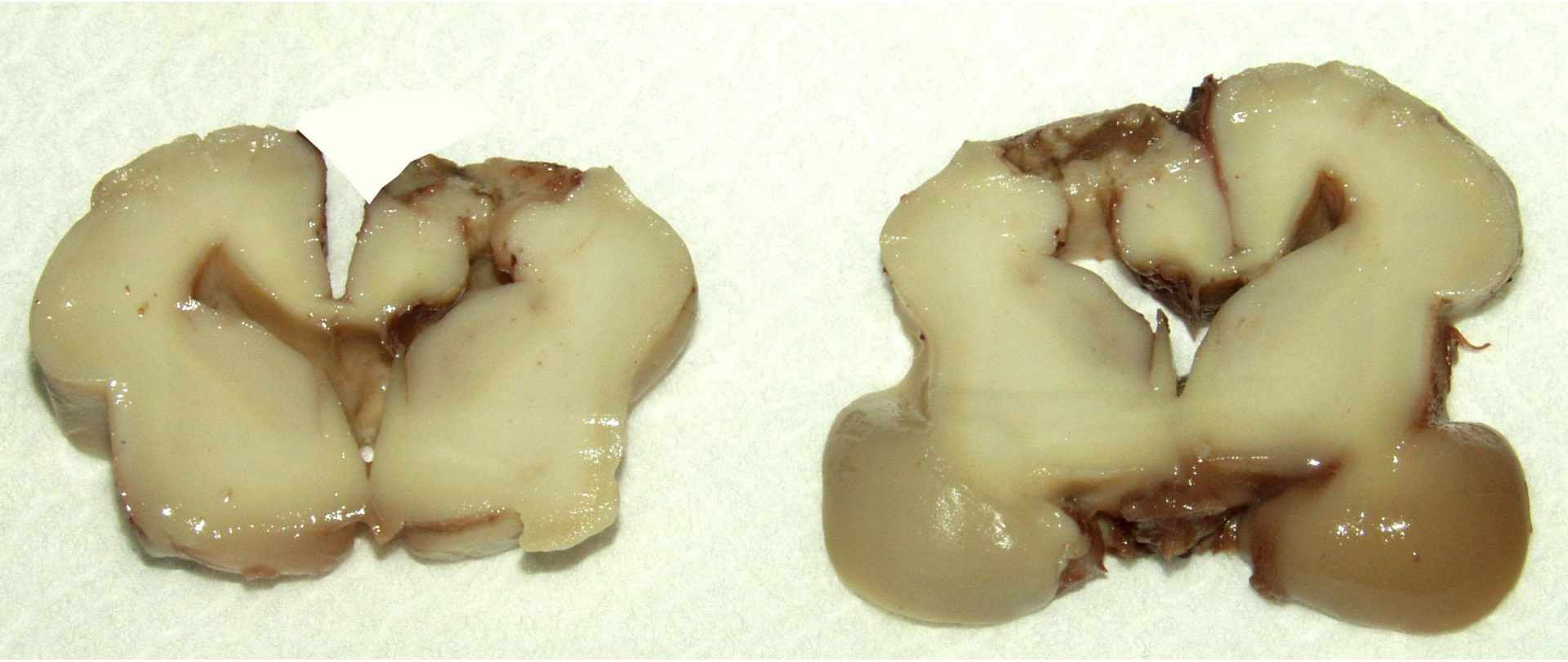
Schizencephaly



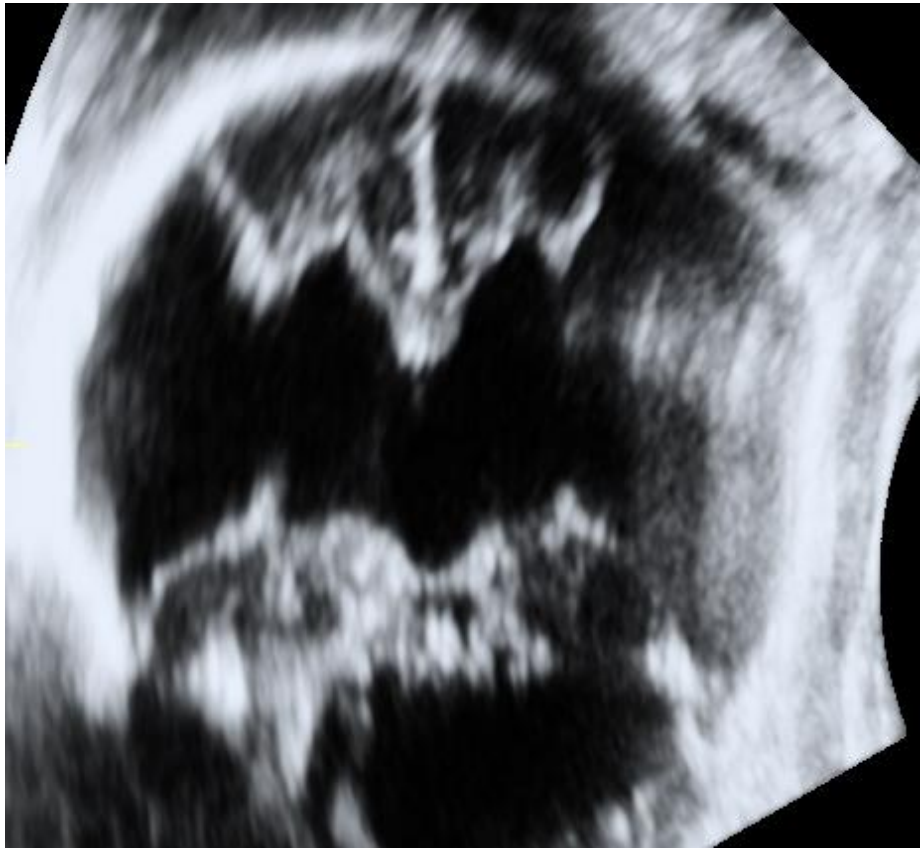
Schizencephaly is a disorder characterized by full-thickness grey matter-lined clefts of the cerebral mantle

Images by P. Bonasoni

Bilateral schizencephaly with open lips

Axial view

Coronal view



The clefts can be bilateral and large and cross the entire brain from one side to the other; in these cases the prognosis is usually very poor. This infant died soon after birth

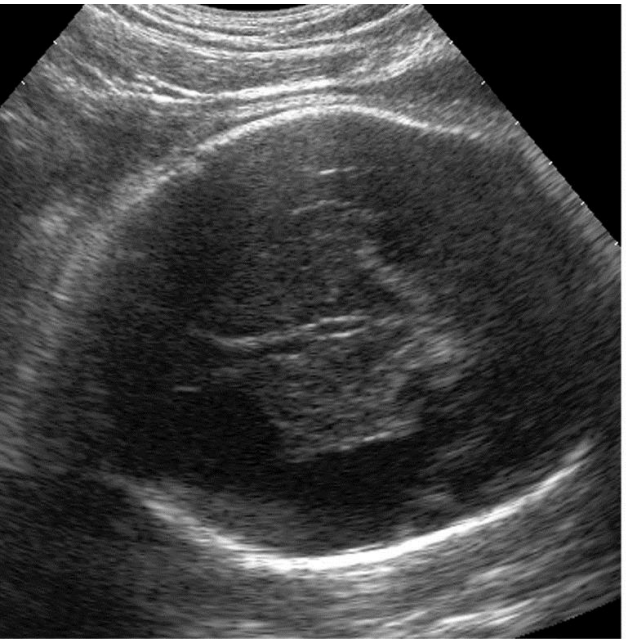
Images by G. Pilu

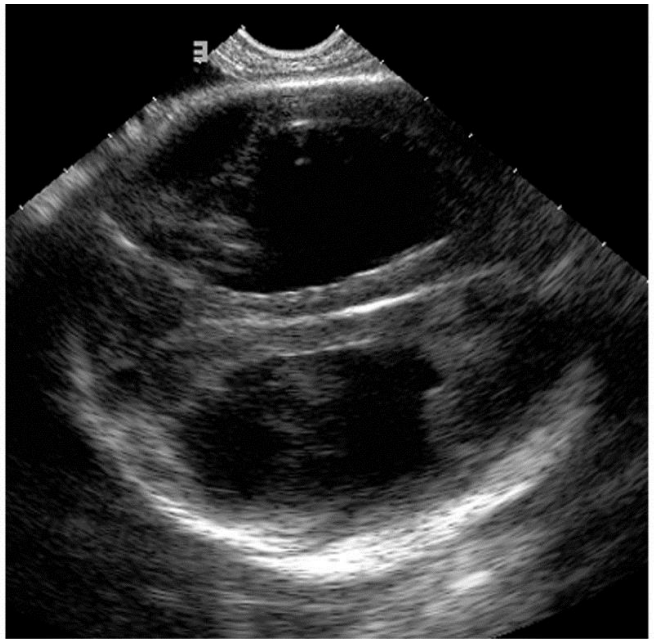
Schizencephaly and absence of septum pellucidum

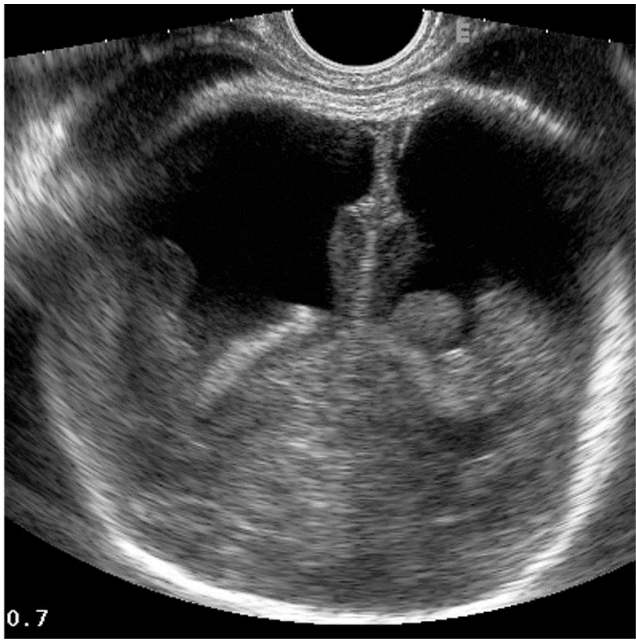
Particularly with large bilateral clefts, the ventricles may be enlarged and the *cavum septi pellucidi* absent

Images by G. Pilu

‘Basket’ brain







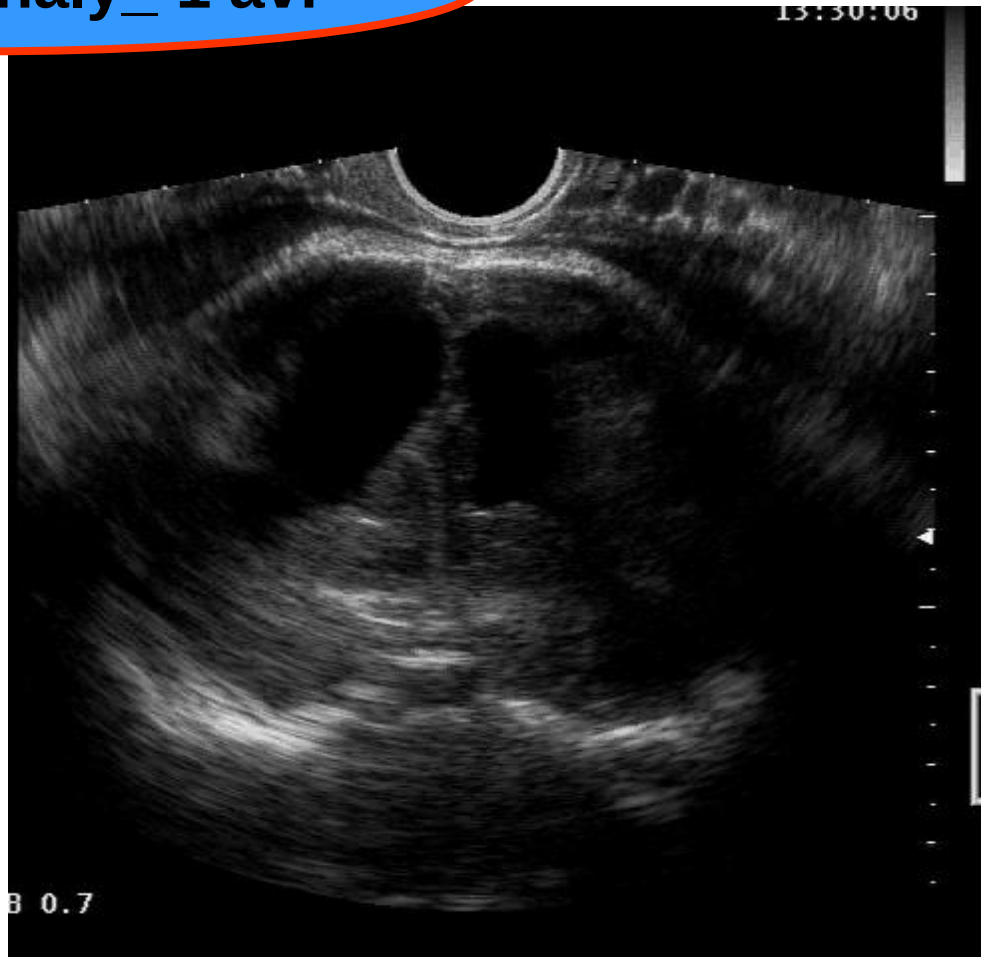
In this case there is extensive bilateral destruction of the cortex. This is commonly referred to as a ‘basket’ brain

Images by G. Pilu

‘Basket’ brain

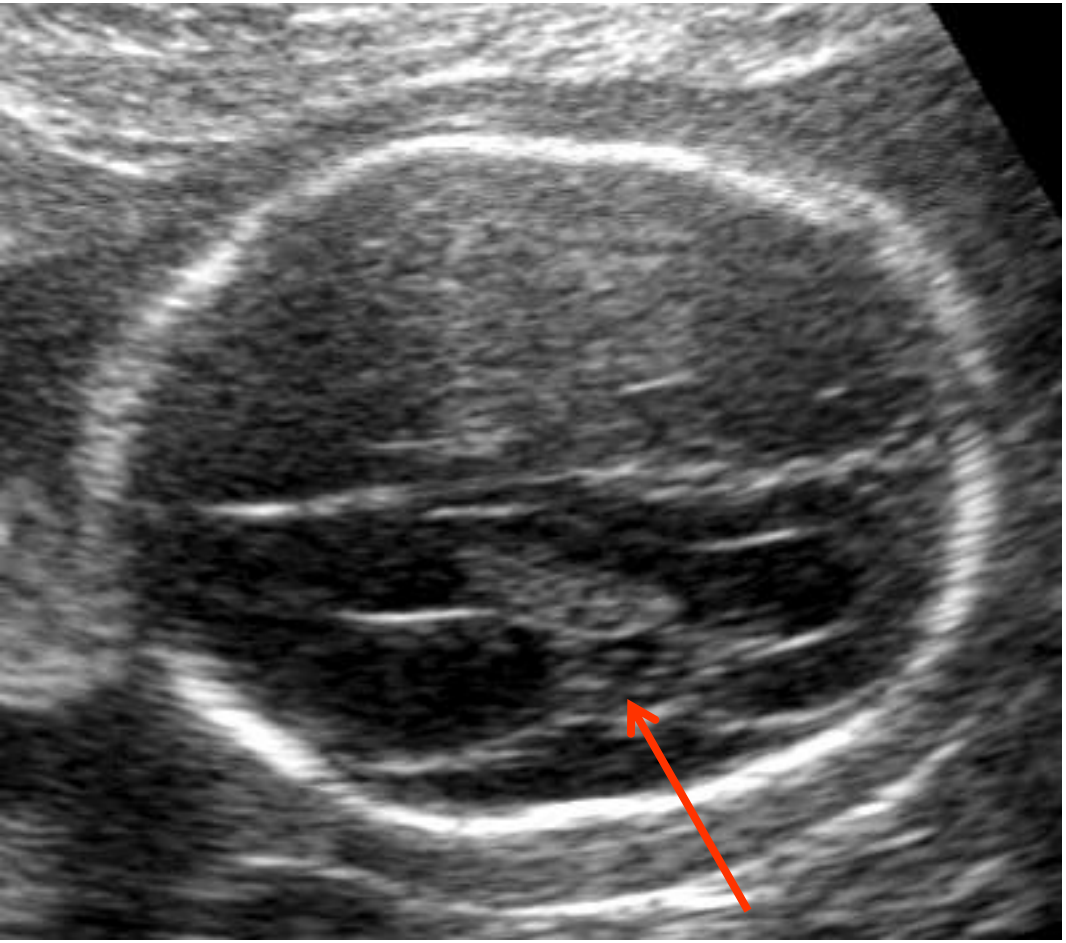
Schizencephaly_ 1 avi

Schizencephaly usually appears on ultrasound as cystic lesions inside the brain. A specific diagnosis requires demonstration with multiplanar imaging of a defect (or defects) connecting the subarachnoid space with the cavity of lateral ventricles. Differentiation from simple ventriculomegaly is important because the prognosis of schizencephaly is frequently poor



Images by G. Pilu

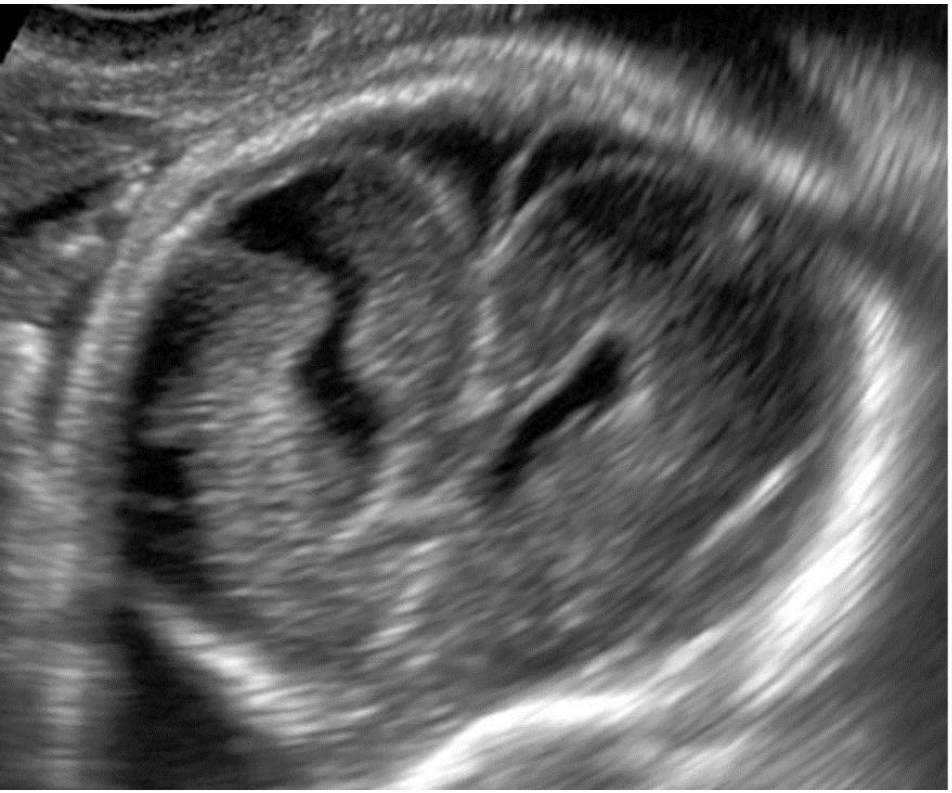
Unilateral schizencephaly



Schizencephaly frequently derives from clastic events occurring in the first half of pregnancy, prior to neuronal migration and formation of the cortical plate. The diagnosis can be difficult when the lesion is unilateral and small, particularly in early stages when debris may mask the defect

Images by G. Pilu

Unilateral schizencephaly



In this case the prenatal identification was particularly difficult, as the cleft was small and unilateral.

Images by G. Pilu

Unilateral schizencephaly: coronal views

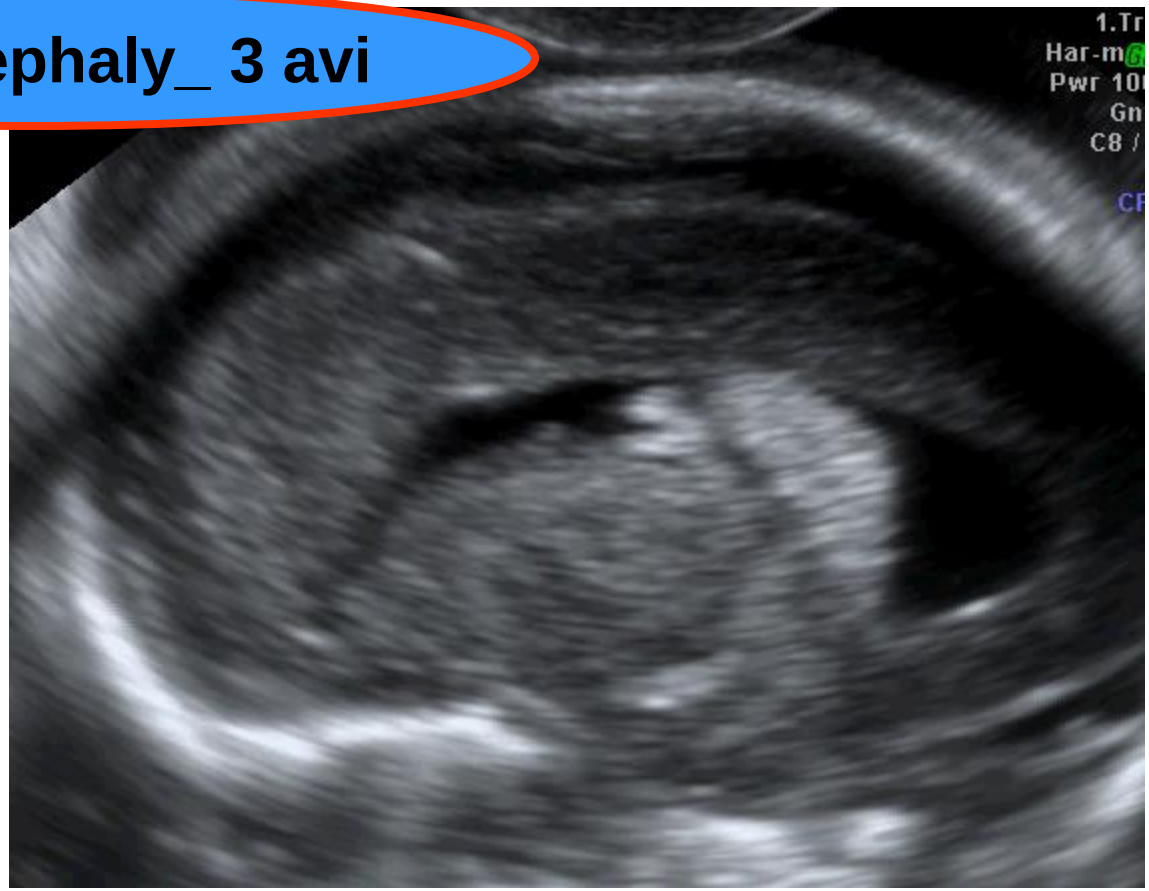
Schizencephaly_ 2 avi

Meticolous scanning was necessary to demonstrate this small cleft in a midtrimester fetus referred because of mild ventriculomegaly

Images by G. Pilu

Unilateral schizencephaly: sagittal views

Schizencephaly_ 3 avi



Same case of the previous clip

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