Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome: Karyotyping Is Key

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RENO, NEV. — Fetuses with hypoplastic left heart syndrome and normal chromosomes are unlikely to die in utero, according to a retrospective study of 176 fetuses diagnosed prenatally with the disorder.

Of these fetuses, which were diagnosed over a 12-year period, 133 were live born, 32 underwent therapeutic abortion, and 3 died in utero. The outcome for eight of the fetuses is unknown, Rebecca H. Allen, M.D., and her associates wrote in a poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

Of the 3 fetuses that died in utero, 1 had trisomy 13, 1 had trisomy 18, and 1 was not karyotyped. Both of the fetuses with normal chromosomes and an isolated hypoplastic left heart lesion are a potentially good candidate for in utero cardiac intervention, she said.

Aneuploidy Rate Rises With Miscarriage Rate

RENO, NEV. — Women who’ve had three spontaneous abortions before a current pregnancy have almost a 50% higher risk of carrying a fetus with aneuploidy than those who’ve never had a miscarriage, according to a large review of women who had undergone amniocentesis.

The study reviewed fetal karyotype analyses from 46,939 women who had been seen at a single prenatal diagnostic referral center between 1983 and 2003, 80% of whom were 35 years old or older, said Dr. Bianco of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California, San Francisco.

According to those records, women who could identify one previous spontaneous abortion were found to have fetuses with trisomy 13, 18, or 21 at a rate of 1.45%, compared with a rate of 1.10% for those who had undergone amniocentesis. Women who had two prior losses had a rate of 1.56%. Those with three prior losses had a rate of 1.70%, and a 2.18% rate of any aneuploidy.