

TAMIL NADU

Vellore CMC doctors perform life-saving surgery on unborn baby



i

STAFF REPORTER

VELLORE APRIL 08, 2017 09:12 IST

UPDATED: APRIL 08, 2017 09:36 IST

Air passages were obstructed in foetus

A multi-disciplinary team of doctors at Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore performed EXIT (ex utero intrapartum treatment) procedure on a foetus having a neck mass recently.

EXIT procedure is a life-saving procedure done on a foetus whose air passages are obstructed either because of a large mass in the neck or in conditions like diaphragmatic hernia where the intestines, liver move up to the chest, and may prevent the baby from breathing after birth, a press release said. A pregnant woman was referred to CMC's labour ward at 37 weeks of pregnancy with her baby having a neck mass. A scan revealed that the foetus had a large, solid neck mass, measuring 7x8 cm. This was compressing its oesophagus (food pipe) and trachea (wind pipe).

While in the mother's womb, the baby gets its oxygen supply from the mother's blood via the placenta. After delivery, it needs to breathe on its own. It is here that the presence of airway obstruction due to the neck mass would prevent the baby from breathing on its own after birth, doctors explained, in the release.

It is here that the EXIT procedure plays a vital role. Its aim is to deliver the baby partially and keep the blood/oxygen flow from the placenta going. Meanwhile, a team of experts would pass a breathing tube into the baby's airway so that the oxygen can be delivered to the baby's lungs through the ventilator. The umbilical cord is then cut.

"It is a common myth that EXIT procedure is as same as caesarean section. The challenge in EXIT is that we have to keep the uterus relaxed to ensure that the placenta stays in place and the baby gets its oxygen," said Manisha Madhai Beck, associate professor and head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology unit 4, CMC.

Printable version | Apr 8, 2017 12:09:50 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/unborn-baby-undergoes-life-saving-surgery/article17890779.ece>

© The Hindu