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Congenital uterine anomalies and infertility: Diagnosis with imaging techniques

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Congenital uterine malformations are a various group of uterine anatomical abnormalities originated from development defects during fetal growth. These anomalies are found in about %1-3 of women, particularly those with infertility.

American Fertility Society classified uterine malformations into seven categories based on anatomic findings and embryologic etiologies behind that. In this division, Class I includes hypoplasia and agenesis of the uterus, Class II contains unicornuate uterus, Class III covering uterus didelphys, class IV consists of bicornuate uteri, Class V is septate uterus, Class VI is composed of arcuate uterus and Class VII are diethylstilbestrol-related anomalies.

These malformations are associated with higher incidences of infertility, recurrent abortions, intrauterine fetal death, intrauterine growth retardation, premature delivery, fetal malposition, higher rate of caesarean section, retained placenta and gynecologic complications such as obstructive hematocolpos & hematometra. However, manifestations and severity of the obstetric/gynecologic complications vary depending on each class. Moreover, treatment procedures are associated to the type of anomaly. Therefore, accurate diagnosis of uterine malformations and differentiation between various classes of them play a significant role in management of patients with congenital uterine anomalies.

In this lecture we mention useful knowledge on diagnosis and classification of uterine malformations & related complications by means of various imaging tools. We also provide unique radiologic images of uterine anomalies from worthful gallery of our advanced reproductive imaging center, Royan Institute, Iran.