

What is a placental teratoma?

A placental teratoma is a non-cancerous mass of tissue in the placenta that may contain many different cell types, such as skin, hair, teeth, and fat. It can also be found in other organs such as the ovary, but having a teratoma in one organ does not mean there is a higher risk of finding it in another one. The diagnosis is confirmed when the placenta is removed after delivery and sent for analysis.

How does a placental teratoma happen?

The reason that placental teratomas happen is not known for sure, but there are a few theories. The most common theory is that cells with the ability to turn into any cell type migrate from the developing embryo into the placenta, where they form the teratoma.

What does it mean for the pregnancy if there is a placental teratoma?

A placental teratoma is not usually related to other physical differences in the baby, umbilical cord, or placenta. A thorough ultrasound can reveal the diagnosis before the baby is born. Your doctor may ask for more ultrasounds in the pregnancy to make sure the teratoma is not changing in size.

A placental teratoma does not increase the risk for the pregnancy.

What does it mean for my baby after it is born?

There are no known serious effects on the baby following a prenatal diagnosis of placental teratoma. The placenta will be sent for analysis after your baby is born to make sure this is the correct diagnosis.

Will it happen again?

Placental teratomas are extremely rare. There are no reports of it occurring again in a following pregnancy.

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