

PubMed

Abstract

Full text links



See 1 citation found by title matching your search:

[Am J Phys Anthropol.](#) 1993 Jul;91(3):367-78.

Growth of the fetus in the abdominal cavity.

[Abitbol MM](#)¹.

Author information

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University Hospital, State University of New York, Stony Brook 11794.

Abstract

The ratio pelvic/**abdominal cavity** is 6.9% in samples of nonhuman mammals and nonhuman primates, and rises to approximately 30% in humans. This relative reduction of the abdomen and increase of the pelvis is associated with a partial or total shift of some organs from the abdomen to the pelvis: rectosigmoid colon, bladder, and genital organs, which are mostly **abdominal** in quadrupeds and are mostly pelvic in humans. Pregnancy, always **abdominal** in nonhumans, is pelvic during the first trimester and becomes **abdominal** later on in humans. Near term the pregnancy expands easily in nonhumans in view of relatively small **fetus** and relatively large **abdominal cavity**. But, for the opposite reasons (large **fetus**, small abdomen), the human pregnancy is limited space-wise during its **abdominal** expansion. Unlike that of nonhumans, human pregnancy is faced with multiple problems. These include: 1) "squeezing" between the anterior **abdominal** wall and the lordosis of the lumbar spine; 2) compression of the aortocaval vessels; and 3) forward expansion of the abdomen resulting in reorientation of the trunk during erect posture as the pregnant woman approaches term. All these conditions are responsible for numerous pathological entities that occur during human pregnancy and are almost unknown in nonhuman mammals.

PMID: 8333491 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Publication Types, MeSH Terms

LinkOut - more resources

PubMed Commons

[PubMed Commons home](#)

0 comments

[How to join PubMed Commons](#)