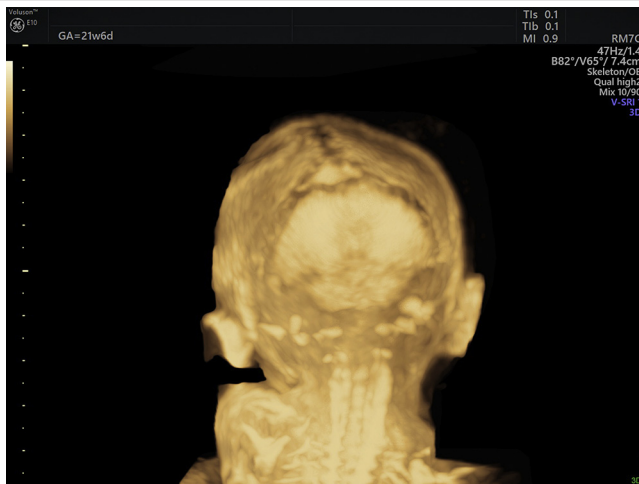


# Fetal Wormian bones: a curious congenital finding

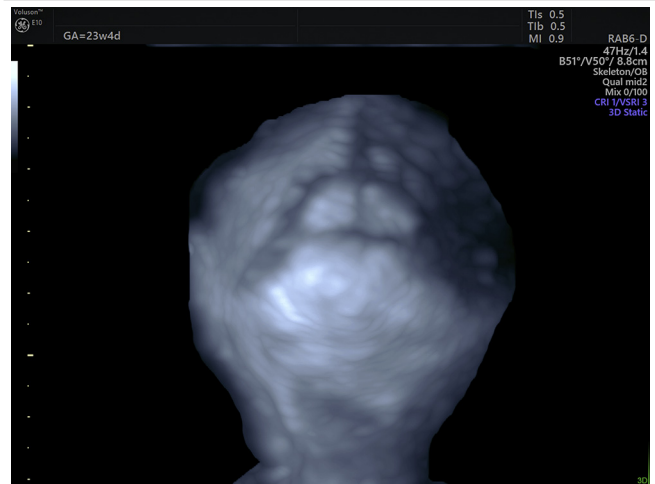
Tal Weissbach, MD; Roni Sharon, MD; Shali Mazaki Tovi, MD; Boaz Weisz, MD; Eran Kassif, MD

**FIGURE 1**  
3D image of a solitary Wormian bone in posterior fontanelle



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**FIGURE 2**  
3D image of Wormian bones located in the posterior fontanelle

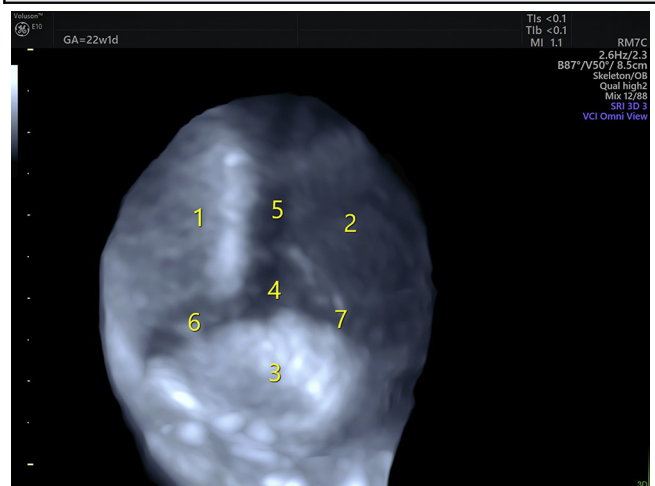


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Wormian bones are ectopic bones located in the cranial sutures and fontanelles. They were first described by the Danish anatomist Olaus Worm in 1643. The underlying process of their formation is unknown, and their clinical significance has been debated. A recent study of 72 cases published in the current issue has concluded that fetal Wormian bones are probably a normal variant. Presented herewith are 2 cases of isolated Wormian bones in the posterior fontanelle detected on a routine midtrimester scan—1 showing a solitary bone (Figure 1) and the other showing 2 bones (Figure 2). Both

cases had normal microarray results. Figure 3 demonstrates a normal posterior fontanelle (4) surrounded by parietal bones (1 and 2), occipital bone (3), sagittal (5) and lambdoid (6 and 7)

**FIGURE 3**  
3D image of normal posterior fontanelle and surrounding bones



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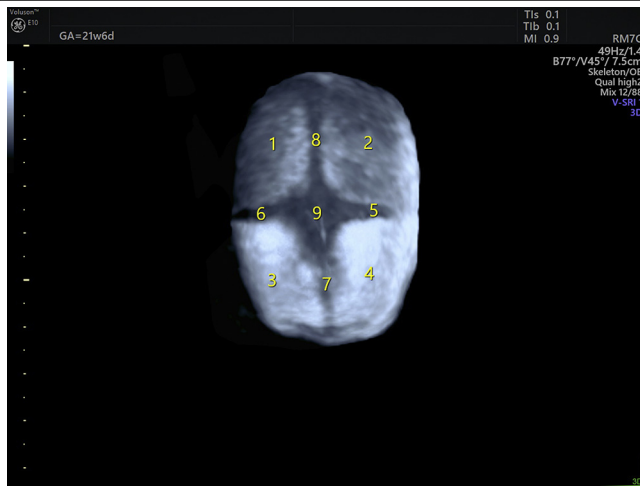
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**FIGURE 4**  
**3D image of normal anterior fontanelle and surrounding bones**



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(6 and 7) sutures. [Figure 4](#) demonstrates a normal anterior fontanelle, (9), surrounded by parietal bones (1 and 2); frontal bones (3 and 4); and coronal (5 and 6), metopic (7) and sagittal sutures (8). ■

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