Lesson 3: Don’t Fear the Fetus: A Second/Third Trimester Ultrasound Blueprint for the General Radiologist
Amanda E. Lackey, MD, and Teresita L. Angtuaco, MD, FACP, FSRS, FAIUM

Question 3-1. This question addresses the maximum cisterna magna measurement on fetal obstetrical ultrasound, which is less than 10 mm (A). So (A) is the correct answer.

Question 3-2. This question deals with the best method to document the presence/absence of a 3-vessel umbilical cord on fetal obstetrical ultrasound, which is color Doppler imaging at the level of the urinary bladder (D). So (D) is the correct answer.

Question 3-3. This question refers to the most accurate means for sonographic dating of pregnancy, which is the first trimester crown-rump length (B). So (B) is the correct answer.

Question 3-4. This question is illustrated by a longitudinal fetal ultrasound image of the cervix (arrow) and the lower uterus. The fetal abdomen and lower thorax are noted in the middle of the uterine cavity, and at this time, the fetus is in the breech, not cephalic (A), presentation. So (A) is false. The cervix does not appear short (B). Thus, (B) is false. A mass, such as a myoma in the anterior uterine wall (D), is not identified. So (D) is false. The placenta is anterior, not posterior (C), in location; and the inferior aspect of the placenta does not extend across the internal cervical os, suggesting absence of a placenta previa (E). Thus (C) is false, but (E) is true; and (E) is the correct answer.

Question 3-5. This question concerns the usual gestational time for the appearance of the fetal stomach and urinary bladder on fetal obstetrical ultrasound, which is after 16 weeks (E). So (E) is the correct answer.

Question 3-6. This question draws attention to the length of the normal cervix on fetal obstetrical ultrasound, which is at least 3.0 cm (D). So (D) is the correct answer.

Question 3-7. This question speaks to the normal number of vessels in the umbilical cord, which is 3 (B), 1 umbilical vein that ascends toward the liver and 2 umbilical arteries that descend to lie on either side of the urinary bladder. So (B) is the correct answer.

Question 3-8. This question calls attention to the optimal time (in gestational weeks) to obtain the second/third trimester fetal obstetrical ultrasound to check for fetal anomalies, which is 18 to 20 weeks (D). So (D) is the correct answer.

Question 3-9. This question speaks to the fetal anatomic site where the fetal abdominal circumference should be measured on fetal obstetrical ultrasound, which is the portal sinus (A). So (A) is the correct answer.
Question 3-10. This question regards several important statements about the fetal biparietal diameter. The fetal biparietal diameter on fetal obstetrical ultrasound is the measurement that extends from the outer edge of the nondependent skull to the inner edge of the dependent skull (A). So (A) is true. It is measured at the level of the thalami and cavum septi pellucidi (D), and the cerebellum should not be visualized when in the correct plane for its measurement (B). Thus (B) and (D) are true. The fetal biparietal diameter is dependent on, not independent of, head shape (C); and when there is a suspicion of brachycephaly or dolichocephaly, head circumference rather than the fetal biparietal diameter is used as the pregnancy dating parameter. So (C) is false, and (C) is the correct answer.

Answer Key for Volume 38 # 3:

1. A
2. D
3. B
4. E
5. E
6. D
7. B
8. D
9. A
10. C