

Clinical Image

Dicephalic Parapagus Conjoined Twins

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A 28-year-old G₂P₁ was referred for conjoined twins diagnosed during a routine 18-week ultrasound. Ultrasounds at 5 and 8 weeks reported a possible dichorionic-diamniotic gestation, and a singleton with an adjacent cyst, respectively. Ultrasound revealed dicephalic parapagus tribrachius bipus conjoined twins [1]. The fetuses were joined at the thorax with two hearts fused medially (Figure 1). A single stomach, pelvis and bladder, with two kidneys, three arms and two



Figure 1: Ultrasound image.



Figure 2: Photograph after delivery.

legs with bilateral clubbed feet were visualized. After counseling, the patient chose to terminate pregnancy by induction of labor (Figure 2). Conjoined twins occur in the order of 1/50000–1/100000 gestations, with 28% as parapagus unions [2]. Only 33% of conjoined twins are diagnosed by ultrasound before 10 weeks [3]. With advancing gestation, inseparable fetal movements and conjoined anatomy become more apparent. Conjoined twins should be considered in all cases of monozygotic twinning. Late diagnoses present more difficult options for parents and physicians.

References

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