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Case report of cranio-thoraco-omphalophagus

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Abstract

Introduction: Monoamniotic monochoric conjoined twins otherwise called as Siamese twins is a rare entity, results from incomplete separation of embryonic disc at 13-15 day pregnancy. Early diagnosis by ultrasound help the parents to decide for termination and prevent long term maternal morbidity and mortality. Fetal MRI done for confirmation of the diagnosis.

Keywords: Monoamniotic monochoric conjoined twins, Siamese twins, fetal MRI, ultrasonography, obstetric ultrasound, cranio-thoraco-omphalophagus, craniophagus, thoracophagus, omphalophagus

Introduction

Case Report

28 years old female visited us for Obstetric Ultrasonography for the first time at 15 weeks of gestation for assessment of fetal well being. Ultrasound was done which revealed conjoined twin fused at head, thorax and abdomen. The fetal head was seen to be fused and four lateral ventricles were seen. Fetal chest was seen fused with two beating hearts. (Demonstrated in Figure-1). Fetal abdomen demonstrated two livers with one anteriorly placed spine and the other posteriorly placed spine. There was gross fetal ascites and pleural effusion. Multiseptated cystic hygroma was seen in the bilateral fetal neck. Based on these finding the diagnosis of Cranio-Thoraco-Omphalophagus was made. Fetal MRI was done for further confirmation of diagnosis, before termination of pregnancy. MRI confirmed the ultrasound diagnosis of fetus fused at head, thorax& abdomen (Shown in Figure-3).

Conclusion

Conjoined twins are very rare, seen exclusively in monoamniotic monochorionic twins. Early diagnosis by ultrasound help the parents to decide for termination and prevent long term maternal morbidity and mortality.

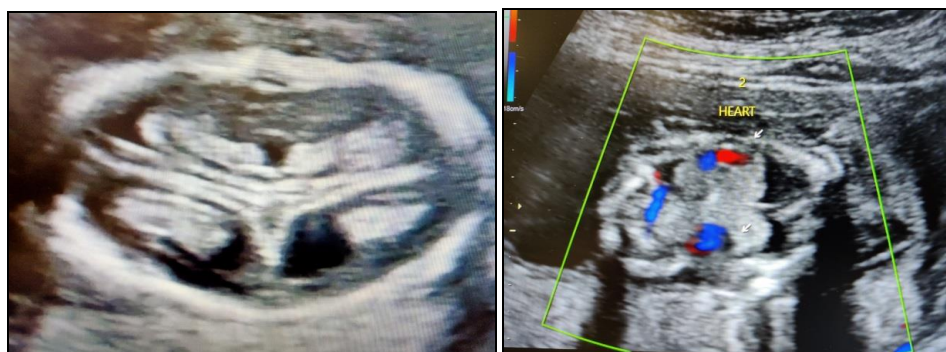


Fig 1: Antenatal Ultrasound showing fused brain with four ventricles and fused thorax with two hearts

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Fig 2: 3D Ultrasound image showing the fetus fused at head, thorax and abdomen.



Fig 3: Fetal MRI showing the fetus fused at head, thorax and abdomen.



Fig 4: Gross specimen of aborted Cranio-Thoraco-Omphalophagus twins.

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