

A rare congenital Anomaly of a foetus with two faces

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A rare congenital anomaly of a foetus with two faces, bilateral duplication of optic diverticulum and duplication of frontonasal process was encountered. Such an anomaly has not been reported so far. External features showed - 2 faces, one on either side with 4 orbits with the anterior ones proptosed, 2 noses, 2 mouths and 2 ears.

Case History :

Mrs. Vijayakumari, aged 32 years married since 12 years G₂P₁LO had her last delivery 5 years ago, her EDD was 8th June '96. Her first baby died on 3rd day, cause not known. She was admitted to the hospital on 1.5.96 at 11.40 pm with H/o 8 months amenorrhoea and draining liquor since 2 hrs. She gave H/o Malaria for which treatment was given by a private practitioner when she was 2 months pregnant. The nature of the drug prescribed was not known. She had antenatal check-up at a private hospital. Her USG Scan at 28 weeks of gestation was reported to be normal and corresponding to the period of gestation.

On clinical examination, her B.P. was 160/100 mm. Hg, her CVS & RS-normal P/A uterus - 34 wks, contracting, the head was floating and the foetal heart sounds were well heard.

P/V-cx 25% effaced, 2 cm dilated.

Membranes absent; Vertex above brim, Pelvis gynaecoid. A clinical diagnosis of pregnancy induced hypertension with premature rupture of membranes was made.

Two pints of Oxytocin drip were given. Since there was no progress, it was decided to perform a caesarean section. At operation a female baby weighing 2 kg with congenital anomalies was delivered.

The external features of the foetus showed four eye balls, two noses, two mouths but only two ears. The baby had a single pharynx and single larynx.



Two Orbital cavities located anteriorly were smaller in size; Eyeballs proptosed; Eyelids were not formed and the optic nerves were surrounded by connective tissue. Muscles and blood vessels were absent. Two orbital cavities located posteriorly were normal in size and had formed eye-lid.

Microscopic Examination showed that the layers of the anterior eye balls were not formed and the lens was absent. But the Posterior eyeballs were well formed and lens was present.

Embryogenesis for the anomaly is the formation of two optic diverticulae on either sides, the posterior one coming into contact with the surface ectoderm in time and so the further development was normal. As there was frontonasal process duplication and stomodeal duplication, there were two noses and two mouths.