

A Rare Case of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

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A 35 week male fetus with generalized oedema, umbilical hernia, shortening of all four limbs and webbing of the toes on both feet was encountered.

Case History

Mrs. J, aged 25 years, married for 7 years, is known alcoholic, consuming 1 pint of alcohol for the past 15 years. Her husband, 35 year old is also an alcoholic

consuming 2 pints of alcohol for the past 15 years. G4P2L2 Her second baby also had similar congenital anomalies, was full term and died soon after birth. The first and third children are normal. She had regular ante-natal checkup at the Community health and Development hospital at Vellore. Her USG scan at 34 weeks of gestation showed cephalic presentation, gross absence of fetal heart sounds, oligohydramnios and enlarged kidneys.

On clinical examination at 35 weeks, her B.P. was 130/80 mmHg. 'CVS and RS were normal, P/A uterus 35 weeks. Uterus was contracting, but the fetal heart sound was not heard. The fetus delivered normally. The external features of the fetus showed a fetus with generalized oedema, having an oedematous flap on the forehead, umbilical hernia, shortening of all four limbs and webbing of the toes on both feet.

These congenital anomalies can be due to consumption of alcohol. Chromosomal studies in this case have not been done due to nonavailability of the facilities.

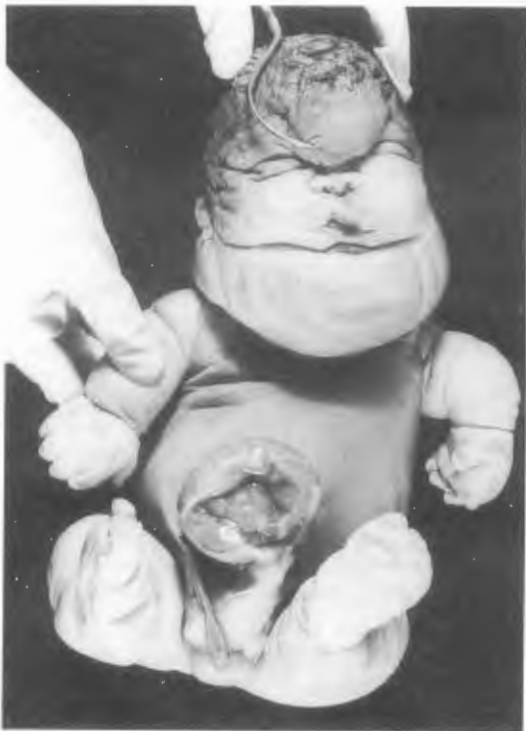


Fig. 1