

# Dicephalus, Tetrabrachius, Tetrachirus Conjoined Twins : Case Report

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## Case Report

Unusual conjoined twins were born to a 26 year old second gravida who had a previous live issue. It was a spontaneous conception and there was no history of intake of any ovulation induction drugs nor any assisted reproductive technique. There was no exposure to any known teratogen in the first trimester. There was no family history of multiple pregnancy or congenital malformations.

She presented at 24 weeks gestation. A routine ultrasound showed conjoined twins fused anteriorly in the region the abdomen and pelvis. Sonogram revealed fetal head, heart, spines to be normal and separate on both the sides (Fig 1.2.3.) There was a single fused liver with a single umbilical vein and artery and a single umbilical cord. The placenta was in the anterior upper segment and grade zero in maturity. There was a single urinary bladder.

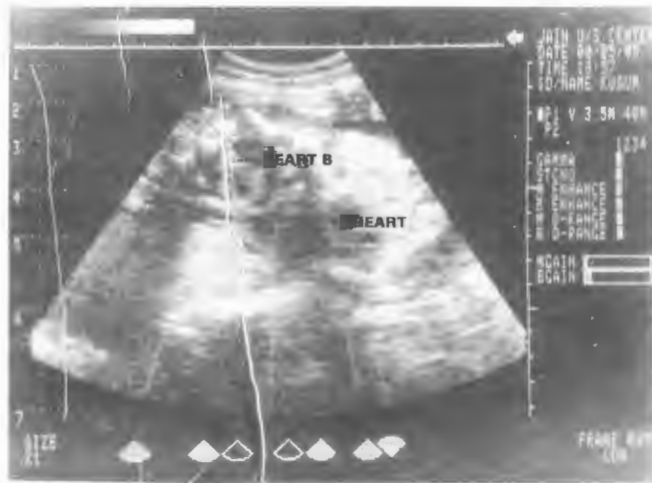


Fig. 2



Fig. 1

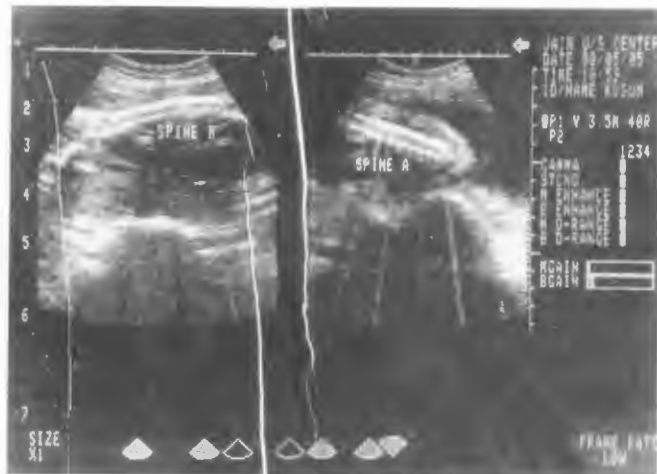


Fig. 3

Since the twins shared vital organs, the couple were counseled and the pregnancy was terminated using intra-cervical and intra-muscular prostaglandins.

The conjoined twins weighted 1.2 kgs and were delivered as breech per via naturalis. The external examination revealed severe diffuse somatic abnormalities. Two heads (Dicephalus) were present on two necks. The left twin had a cleft lip and a cystic hygroma was noticed around the neck of this twin (Fig. 4). The twins were fused in the region of the lower thorax, entire abdomen and the pelvis. There were four fore limbs (tetrabrachius) which appeared to be normal morphologically and four apparently normal hands (tetrachirus). Two separate vertebral columns were present along the entire length of the bodies of the twins. A single pelvis was seen with a single anus and vulva. The two hind limbs originated from the pelvis as in any singleton pregnancy. A third hind limb arose posteriorly at 180 degrees to the first two (Fig. 5). This represented the other two fused hind limbs and ended in two separate feet (Tetrapus). External genitalia were of female type.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Conjoined twins still remain an anatomical and embryological enigma. They can present in varied anatomical patterns like the present case report, making them an anatomists' delight. The findings of the present case also support the currently favoured incomplete fission theory of origin.