

Fetus Papyraceus – A case Report

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Introduction

Fetus Papyraceus or compressus, as the name suggests, is a condition which occurs if one of the fetuses of multiple gestation dies early in the second trimester. The dead fetus is flattened and compressed between the membranes of the living and the uterine wall.

Incidence of the event is 1 in 12,500 cases of twins.

Case Report

Mrs. ABC, 20 yrs, primigravida, married two years back, came with h/o nine months amenorrhoea and pain in abdomen for about four hours. No h/o taking any drugs before or after conception. She never attended any antenatal clinic.

On general and systemic examination there was nothing specific except mild pallor.

Abdominal examination : Uterus*full term, vertex presenting in LOA position, FHS 136 / min. and regular, contractions 2/10 mins, lasting for 15-20 seconds.

Vaginal examination : Cervix 3-4 cm. dilated, 80% effaced, bag of waters present, head at minus 2 station, pelvis adequate.

After five hours patient delivered a male baby weighing 2.7 kg. without any gross anomaly. After about four minutes, the placenta was delivered along with attached intact sac having fetus papyraceus within it with its pale looking small placenta and a thin cord, totally weighing 650 gms. (Photograph 1).

Patient went home happily on third postnatal day with her normal male baby.



Photograph 1 : Fetus Papyraceus with the normal baby and their placenta

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