Placenta adhered to the cephalic pole in a fetus with limb-body wall complex

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Objective
To report the findings of a fetus with limb-body wall complex (LBWC) and a placenta adhered to its cephalic pole.

Methods
Case report.

Results
We present the case of a 16 year-old pregnant woman, referred to our center at 21 weeks of gestation to exclude anencephaly. She had no history of vaginal bleeding or contractions. Ultrasound evaluation showed a single umbilical artery, acrania and abnormal cerebral content, ocular hypertelorism, an an image suggestive of encephalocele above the left orbit, cleft lip and a linear image that extended from the forehead of the fetus to the placenta, suggesting an amniotic band. Fetal MRI showed findings consistent with the ultrasound. Fetal karyotype was normal. The child was delivered by cesarean section (due to both the breech presentation as the undefined characteristics of the associated malformation), with the placenta attached to its cephalic pole at 37 weeks gestation, weighing 2930 g. On physical examination, there was also syndactyly between second and third toes. A membrane stretching from the midline of the face was presented, passing through the brain and going to the placenta. The placenta gradually was decomposing and its removal was not possible due to its adherence to the nervous tissue. The child died in the 4th day of life.

Conclusion
LBWC is proposed as the cause of a variety of congenital anomalies, including abnormalities in skull and face. The findings presented by the patient are considered unusual. LBWC is a condition whose etiology is not well defined and prognosis is considered extremely reserved. The detection of prenatal findings was primordial in the decision making process, regarding route of delivery and to avoid a traumatic outcome for this moment.