Fetiform teratoma (homunculus)

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Objective
Fetiform teratoma (homunculus) is a term that has been given to a rare form of ovarian teratoma that resembles a malformed fetus. There are very few reported cases of this entity in the literature. The clinical and pathologic aspects of this rare entity are presented here.

Methods
Case report.

Results
We present the case of a 27-year-old woman, gravida 1, admitted to our department with a chief complaint of pelvic pain. Her past medical and surgical history were unremarkable. Ultrasonographic examination of the pelvis revealed a complex cystic mass within the left adnexa that measured 48 × 42 × 33 mm in diameter. It contained multiple septations and an echogenic nodule/mass within the left adnexa. Magnetic resonance imaging of the pelvis revealed a 50 x 50 x 45 mm mass on the left ovary. The predominant component was low on T1 and high on T2 weighting, suggesting a cystic component. The preoperative radiologic diagnosis was most likely an ovarian teratoma. During the surgical intervention (laparotomy), a heterogeneous mass was found within the left ovary and cystectomy was performed. The uterus and both fallopian tubes were normal. Gross pathological examination revealed fetiform structure covered with a viscous, sebaceous, keratinaceous-like substance that resembled the face of the human body with a pair of eye and ears. Adjacent to the cyst were several thin, long, darkly pigmented hairs. The remainder of the fetiform structure was covered by skin bearing fine lanugo hair. Sac-like structure was protruding from the bony defect of the cranium lined by hair. Osteocartilagenous structure surrounded by fat was noted after dissection. Skeletal muscles, ligaments, parenchymal organs, or organoid structures were not identified grossly within the homunculus. On microscopic examination, ovarian tumor was benign cystic teratoma lined by normal skin and with attached adnexal components such as primitive or mature hair follicles, sebaceous glands, and eccrine glands.

Conclusion
We have described a fetiform teratoma, a rare form of a mature cystic teratoma, resembling a fetus-like structure. This tumor must be distinguished from fetus-in-fetus and a parasitic monozygotic twin usually found inside the body of a newborn or infant.