



# SELECTIVE TERMINATION OF A DICHORIONIC TWIN PREGNANCY WITH A TRISOMY 18 FETUS: CASE REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

**Aneuploidy** is the most common genetic abnormality detected by prenatal diagnosis and about 90% involves chromosomes 21, 18, 13, X and Y. Detection of fetal aneuploidy is one of the major goals of prenatal screening programs. **Selective termination** refers to the reduction of the anomalous/aneuploid fetus within a multifetal gestation which may optimize the outcome of the normal fetus.

## OBJECTIVE AND METHODS

The aim of this study is to review a clinical case about selective termination of a dichorionic twin pregnancy with a trisomy 18 fetus, performed in Divino Espírito Santo Hospital, Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal.

## CASE REPORT

### Identification:

Female  
30-year-old  
Caucasian

### Medical history:

G1POA0  
A Rh+  
Familial hypercholesterolemia

Referred to our centre due to abnormal findings at first trimester ultrasonography in a **spontaneous dichorionic twin pregnancy**.

### 1<sup>st</sup> trimester ultrasound

13+4 WG	Fetus 1	Fetus 2
CRL	73.8mm	59.3mm
BPD	25.7mm	19.7mm
NT	1.0mm	2.9mm
DV	Normal	Abnormal
Chorionicity	Dichorionic Diamniotic	



### Chorionic Villus Sampling

14+1 WG	
Fetus 1	Fetus 2
46,XX	Trisomy 18 Edwards Syndrome



### Selective Termination

15+2 WG
Ultrasound-guided transabdominal intrathoracic injection of KCl at fetus 2.



Figure 1 – Placenta with a papery fetus.



Figure 2 – Fetus 1 after delivery.

38+3 WG  
**Elective cesarean section**  
Female, 3400g, Apgar scores of 10/10

## CONCLUSION

- ✓ **First trimester ultrasound** examination is crucial because it also allows to detect congenital anomalies, in addition to assessing gestational age, number of fetuses and amnionicity/chorionicity.
- ✓ **Selective termination** has been established as a safe and effective method for termination of a specific anomalous fetus of a multifetal pregnancy in which the fetuses are discordant for anomalies.