A case of sirenomelia - Mermaid syndrome
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Objective
Sirenomelia, also known as mermaid syndrome is a rare fatal congenital defect characterized by varying degrees of lower limb fusion, thoracolumbar spine anomalies, sacrococcygeal agenesis, genitourinary and anorectal atresia. The incidence is 0.8 – 1 per 100,000 births.

Methods
A 25 year old nulliparous women with no known chronic diseases and no history of abortions was examined by perinatologists in University clinical centre Maribor, because of abnormalities of the foetus detected with ultrasound. Ultrasound examination revealed multiple congenital anomalies of the fetus: 7mm frontal oedema. Cystic formation in the chest cavity, right-heart shift. Ventricular septum defect and tricuspid regurgitation. Cystic formation in the abdomen, probably stomach, posteromedially bound to the cystic formation in the chest, diaphragmatic hernia. Only one lower extremity, one femur and one tibia, hypoplastic foot.

Results
Sirenomelia with multiple anomalies in the chest and abdominal cavity was confirmed. Medical abortion was carried out in the 14th week of pregnancy. Pathologic examination of the fetus revealed: Maceration of the compressed head. No lower extremities, one 3 cm long cone, no evidence of the knee or foot. Normal upper extremities, 5 fingers on both hands. No external sex organs, no anus. No abnormalities in abdominal cavity, right heart shift, no septal defects, arteries and veins in anatomic position. In the chest cavity normally developed lungs. No bladder or kidneys, suprarenal glands normally developed. Two testicles, stomach, intestine in anatomic position, normally developed.

Conclusion
Sirenomelia is a rare congenital defect, diagnosed by ultrasound, where typical malformations of the lower extremities are seen. Both limbs are fused together and not fully developed. Malformations of other organ systems are also present, the condition is often fatal and incompatible with life. Exceptional cases without renal agenesis may survive but prognosis is poor.