A case of thoracopagus conjoined twins

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Objective
The aim of this study was to present an antenatal case report of the conjoined twins. Conjoined twins are an unusual, extreme form of monozygotic twins. Incidence of this type of twins ranges from 1: 50 000 to 1: 100 000 of live births. 40-60% of conjoined twins die in utero while 35% of those twins are born alive but do not live longer than 24 hours. Depending on the location of the anatomic fusion, there are several types of conjoined twins (thoracopagus, omphalopagus, pygopagus, ischiopagus, craniopagus, parapagus, cephalopagus, rachipagus).

Methods
A case report of the antenatal diagnosis of conjoined twins.

Results
The case report refers to monochorionic monoamniotic, conjoined twins of thoracopagus type, diagnosed during ultrasound evaluation performed in the 11th week of pregnancy. 30-year-old patient, G1P0, with unremarkable obstetric history and negative serological testing. Ultrasound evaluation in the 1st trimester revealed an MCMA twin pregnancy, conjoined twins at the level of the anterior thorax. Normal heart rate was established in both fetuses and the twins were sharing a single stomach and a single urinary bladder (megacystis). The twins had four upper limbs and two lower limbs were described. Generalized edema was detected in one of the twins. Serum level of beta-hCG was 1,867 MoM, and PAPP-A 0.63 MoM. The risk of trisomy 21 calculated based on FMF-certified software was 1 in 3 for Trisomy 21 and 1 in 10 for trisomies 18 and 13. The patient was referred to the hospital, where miscarriage took place. 4 weeks after miscarriage, the patient reported for the control visit to the women’s health center. No pathological lesions were detected.

Conclusion
Conjoined twins constitute a special form of monozygotic twins. The proportion of girls to boys is 3 to 1. There are two theories that explain formation of conjoined twins: the theory of fusion and the theory of fission that describe repeated connection or incomplete separation of the embryonic discs.