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A case of Mermaid syndrome

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Objective

Sirenomelia, also known as mermaid syndrome is rare and fatal congenital defect characterized by varying degrees of lower limb fusion, thoracolumar spine anomalies, sacrococcygeal agenesis, genitourinary and anorectal atresia. The incidence is 0, 8 – 1 case / 100, 000 births.

Methods

This is a case report.

Results

25-years old nulliparous women with no known cronic diseases, no history of abortions was examined by perinatologist in University clinical centre Maribor, because of abnormalities of the foetus, seen with ultrasound, diagnosed by gynaecologist. Ultrasound examination revealed multiple congenital anomalies of foetus: 7 mm oedema frontal in the head. Cytic formation in the chest cavity, heart is shifted on the right side. Ventricular septum defect and tricuspidal regurgitation of the heart. Cystic formation in abdomen, probably stomach, posteromedial is bound to the cystic formation in the chest, diaphragmal hernia. Only one lower extremity, one femur and one tibia, hypoplastic foot. Sirenomelia with multiple anomalies in the chest and abdominal cavity has been confirmed. Medical abortion was induced in 14th week of pregnancy. Pathologic examination of the foetus 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, heart is shifted on the right side, no septum defects, arteries and veins in anatomic position. In the chest cavity normally developed lungs. No bladder, kidneys not found, suprarenal glands normally developed. Two testicles, stomach, interstine in anatomic postition, normally developed.

Conclusion

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