

Images in clinical medicine

Fetus papyraceous: a rare clinical image

Cherukuri Srinidhi, Shubhada Jajoo

Corresponding author: Cherukuri Srinidhi, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Sawangi, Wardha, Maharashtra, India. srinidhicherukuri30@gmail.com

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Fetus papyraceous: a rare clinical image

Cherukuri Srinidhi^{1,&}, Shubhada Jajoo¹

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Sawangi, Wardha, Maharashtra, India

&Corresponding author

Cherukuri Srinidhi, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Sawangi, Wardha, Maharashtra, India

Image in medicine

Fetus papyraceous is characterized by the intrauterine fetal demise of a twin occurring early in pregnancy, which is then compressed between membranes and the uterine wall. After a while, the fetus becomes mummified and resembles parchment paper. It is a rare complication with an incidence of 1 in 12,000, mostly among twin pregnancies. Predisposing factors may include: multiple pregnancies, use of assisted reproductive techniques, certain intrauterine conditions like membranous cord insertion. Insufficiency of the placenta or twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome. A 26-year-old unbooked para 2 living 1 with 39 weeks 6 days of gestation with previous vaginal

delivery came to a casualty with complaints of lower abdomen pain. Blood investigations and term ultrasound were found to be normal. The patient's vitally stable. On examination, per abdomen, adequate contractions with a cephalic presentation, fetal heart rate of 150 beats/min present. Per vaginal examination, the cervix is fully dilated and effaced, and membranes present with the adequate pelvis. After spontaneous rupture of membranes, delivered a live term baby with a

2.6kg birth weight, the baby cried immediately after birth. On examination of the placenta and membranes, there was an incidental finding of a hard, paper-like flattened structure: a shrunken dead fetus-fetus papyraceous. Differential diagnosis of this condition depends on the time of diagnosis antenatal -vanishing twin syndrome in the first trimester, fetus papyraceous in the second trimester, macerated twin in the third trimester.



Figure 1: A) fetus papyraceous-hard, B) paper-like flattened structure