

## Asymmetrical Conjoined Twin

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**A**CCORDING to Cywes and Bloch (1969) the conjoined twins are classified into symmetrical and asymmetrical twins. Wills (1962) defined asymmetrical twins in which one individual may be normal or nearly so and the other is incomplete and attached as a parasite. Various terminologies have been used in the literature varies from parasite to double monsters.

### Case Report

Baby C.P. 20 days old was admitted in the postgraduate department of Plastic Surgery of G.M. & Associated Hospitals, Lucknow on 6th Oct. 1976.

Pregnancy, labour and delivery had been unremarkable. The examination of the new born revealed that the other twin was attached on the ventral aspects extending from the xiphoid to the umbilicus (Fig. 1). It had full developed face with hair on the scalp, thoracic cage along with all the four limb buds. On auscultation no respiratory or cardiac sounds were audible. At the time of admission the child weight was  $6\frac{1}{2}$  pounds.

The child was kept in the hospital

under observation and investigation, the surgery was delayed upto the age of four and half months so that the child can bear the major surgical trauma, and the skin and other integuments of the other twin can be utilised if needed.



Fig. 1

### Investigations

Haemoglobin 19 gm.%, bleeding time 2 minuts 5 seconds, Coagulation time 3

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minute 5 seconds. Barium meal revealed no communication with the parasitic gastro-intestinal tract. Excretory urogram (I.V.P.) normal. Liver scan failed to reveal any communication.

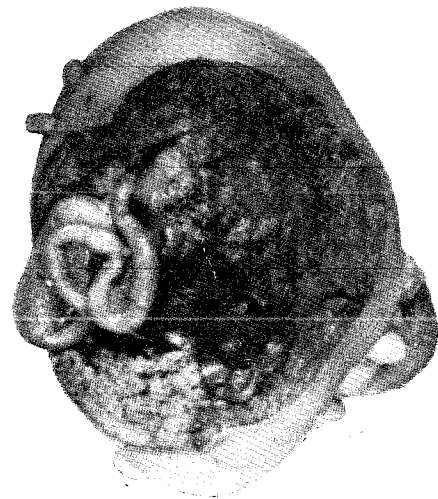
**Anaesthesia :** General anaesthesia.

**Operative Steps :** The pre-planned flaps were properly raised. There was only a single feeding vessel which was entering from the host to the parasite in the region of the falciform ligament. The coelomic

cavities were separate. The liver, intestine, and other abdominal viscera were fully developed (Fig. 3). The parasitic twin was removed and the defect was closed by previously raised flaps of skin (Fig. 2). The post operative phase was uneventful.



*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*

### Summary

Though number of cases of symmetrical twins had been described in the literature but we have not come across any case of the asymmetrical twin. I would like to know from others about this problem.

### REFERENCES

1. Cywes and Bloch : Paediatric Surgery by Orvar Swenson : (ed. III. Vol. 2, 1969).
2. Willis, R. A. : The borderland of embryology and Pathology. London, Butterworth & Co. Ltd., 1962.