Thoracopagus Conjoined Twins

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The incidence of conjoined twins is estimated at 1 in 50,000 births.1 Thoracopagus is the most common form of conjoined twins,2 with fusion from the anterior thorax to the umbilicus. A common pericardial sac is present in 90% of thoracopagus twins, and conjoined hearts are seen in 75%.3

The present case was diagnosed prenatally, and the twins subsequently experienced intrauterine demise at ~22 weeks gestation. Postmortem angiography demonstrated conjoined hearts with a left ventricle common to both twins (Figure). At autopsy, the cardiac anatomy for both hearts was found to be an unbalanced complete atrioventricular canal defect with a common left ventricle.

Disclosures

None.

References


Figure. Postmortem angiography via the umbilical arteries of thoracopagus twins demonstrating conjoined hearts. Ao indicates aorta; PA, pulmonary artery; LV, left ventricle; and RV, right ventricle.
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