

PICTORIAL MEDICINE

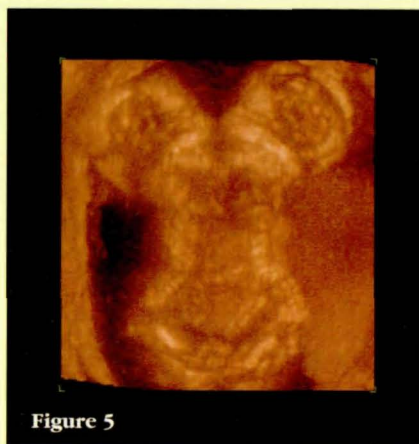
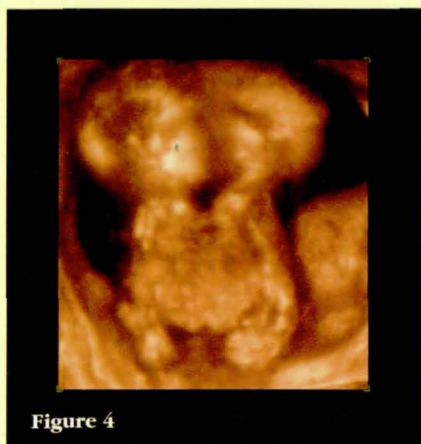
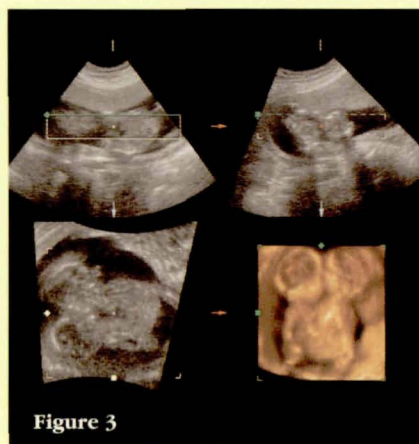
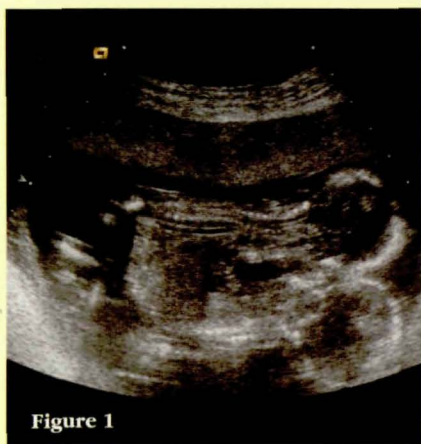
THREE-DIMENSIONAL ULTRASONOGRAPHY OF CONJOINED TWINS

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Ultrasound examination was performed on a 30-year-old woman at her first antenatal visit at 14 weeks' gestation showing twins fused at the thorax and abdomen (Figure 1) with a shared heart. (Figure 2) The diagnosis of thoracopagus twins was made and the shared heart is a sign of nonoperability.¹

Despite explanation with the use of ultrasonographic images, we felt that the parents did not understand the condition clearly. We therefore performed a three-dimensional ultrasound examination. The multiplanar, (Figure 3) surface-rendered (Figure 4) and x-ray mode (Figure 5) ultrasound images

allowed a better depiction of this complex anomaly. Consistent with another report,² these images were helpful in demonstrating the complex anomaly to the parents. They opted for a termination of pregnancy, and the diagnosis of thoracopagus was confirmed on examination of the abortus. (Figure 6)



REFERENCES

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2. Sepulveda W, Munoz H, Alcalde JL. Conjoined twins in a triplet pregnancy: early prenatal diagnosis with three-dimensional ultrasound and review of the literature. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol* 2003;22:199-204.

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