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## Craniopagus parasiticus - Parasitic head protuberant from temporal area of cranium: A case report

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**Background:** Craniopagus parasiticus is a rare medical case and it is unique unlike other cases reported from different literature. The head of parasitic twins is protruding from the temporal area of cranium. Parasitic head had two deformed lower limbs; one was too rudimentary attached to the mass; long bones of bilateral lower limbs and some pelvic bones. After dissection of the mass, the intestine was seen but no chest organs and other abdominal organs. There was also rudimentary labium but no vaginal opening.

**Case Presentation:** A 38-year-old multigravida women from Amhara ethnicity referred from rural health center to referral hospital due to prolonged second state of labor at 42+1 weeks. Upon arrival, she had contraction, term sized gravid uterus and fetal heart beat was 112. On digital pelvic examination, the cervix was fully dilated, station of the head was high and the pulsating umbilical cord was coming in front of the presenting part with ruptured membrane but yet in the vaginal canal. The team decided emergency cesarean section and then a live female infant weighing 4200 g was delivered. The placenta was single and normal. The APGAR scores were seven and nine at 1 and 5 minutes, respectively. The infant appeared to be grossly normal except the parasitic co-twin attached at the cranium. The neonate was investigated with the available investigations (CBC, X-Ray and Doppler ultrasound) and pediatric side consultation made. After a week of counseling and investigations, successful separation operation was done. During post-operative time, the neonate was comfortably suckling on breasts and no neurological deficit. The details of the surgery, post-operative condition and subsequent follow up will be discussed during the conference.

**Conclusion:** The possible etiologies of craniopagus parasiticus are still unknown due to a rarity of cases. Doctors, genetic scientists, epidemiologists and researchers continue to investigate this case as the reasons that could give clue to birth defect and to provide answer for better prognosis of cases and improve the life chances of the twins. This case will have some input in the effort to know the etiology and pathogenesis of this new born.

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## Investigating miRNA-661 and ATG4b mRNA expression as a potential biomarkers for hepatocellular carcinoma

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**Aim:** We aimed to examine the statistical association of serum expression of miR-661 and ATG-4b mRNA with HCC based on in silico data analysis followed by clinical validation.

**Patients & Method:** Bioinformatics prediction was first applied to retrieve the potential miR serving as an epigenetic regulator of ATG-4b mRNA. Real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) were used to examine the expression of miR-661 and candidate target gene ATG-4b mRNA in 105 hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients, 50 chronic hepatitis C infection (CHC) patients and 45 healthy controls. The prognostic efficacy of the chosen genes was also explored.

**Results:** The expression of miR-661 and ATG-4B mRNA was positive in 97.14% and 77.14%, respectively, HCC patients with strong discriminating power between HCC and control (AUC=0.9 and 0.8, respectively). The median follow up period was 28 months. The survival analysis showed that both ATG-4b mRNA and miR-661 were independent prognostic factors. Of note, we found that miR-661 was positively correlated with ATG-4b mRNA in patients' sera samples.

**Conclusion:** This is the first report about the considerable clinical use of miR-661 and ATG-4b mRNA in early detection and follows up of HCC patients.

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