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Twin pregnancy: Emergency McDonald procedure after delivery of early premature first birth: A case report

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Twin pregnancies are associated with a high risk of preterm delivery, resulting in infant both morbidity and mortality.

Delivery of the presenting fetus in twin gestation is usually followed by the subsequent second fetus birth.

In selected cases, after birth of first fetus (late abortion or early preterm birth), the problem of continuing pregnancy in order to allow neonatal viability arises. This event is defined as a delayed delivery of the second twin, and has been reported as a management strategy to decrease morbidity and optimize the survival of the remaining fetus. Despite the interest in this subject, in the literature there is still a lack of a universally-accepted guide line for the optimal management of these unusual cases.

We report a case of a 34 year old patient with dichorionic diamniotic twins undergoing a hasty delivery of presenting fetus at 23 weeks, following rupture of membranes. Despite

intensive neonatal cure, the new born (Apgar: 5; weight: 490) survived three days only. An emergency McDonald cerclage was placed in order to permit saving the second fetus. Cerclage allowed pregnancy prolongation till 28 weeks and 6 days and survival of the fetus, which was born with 8 Apgar and weighing gr 1.100 after cesarean section due to unrestrainable labour. The postoperative course was uneventful for the mother and outcome of new born was satisfactory.

Speaker Biography

Vito Leanza is a Medical Doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology works at "Department of General Surgery and Medical Surgical Specialities, San Marco Policlinic University Hospital, Catania, Italy. He mainly dedicates himself to work in the delivery room and the gynecology and obstetrics emergency unit.

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