



Tragic birth of a mermaid baby with fused lower body and missing genitalia

Description

A baby in Tanzania was born with a rare condition known as sirenomelia, or 'mermaid syndrome.' The newborn, who weighed just over 4.5lbs, had its lower body fused together like a 'mermaid,' missing one arm, an anal opening, and having ambiguous genitalia. Unfortunately, the infant only lived for about five minutes.

Doctors described the condition as 'incompatible' with life due to the multiple defects in critical systems. Sirenomelia is almost always fatal, with only one percent of affected infants surviving longer than one week after birth. The exact cause of sirenomelia is unknown, but it is believed to be a result of tissues not properly developing or separating in the womb, leading to the fusion of lower extremities.

A similar case was that of Milagros Cerron, a Peruvian girl born in 2004 with sirenomelia. Despite only having one kidney, she survived past birth and thrived after her legs were separated as a baby. However, she tragically passed away in 2019 at the age of 15 while awaiting a kidney transplant.

This rare case was reported in the Journal of Medical Case Reports and highlights the challenges and complexities associated with sirenomelia.

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Vocabulary List:

1. **sirenomelia** // (noun): A rare congenital condition where the legs are fused together resembling a mermaid tail.
2. **congenital** // (adjective): Present from birth often referring to medical conditions or disorders.
3. **fatal** // (adjective): Resulting in death deadly or causing someone's death.
4. **ambiguous** // (adjective): Open to more than one interpretation having no clear or definite meaning.
5. **transplant** // (noun): The act or process of transferring an organ or tissue from one body to another or from one part of a body to another.
6. **thrived** // (verb): Prospered or flourished grew or developed vigorously.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the process of passing something from one person or place to another?

- Option: A) Inhaling
Option: B) Modulators
Option: C) Transmission
Option: D) Therapies

2. What term is used to describe the sudden increase in occurrences of a disease in a particular time and place?

- Option: A) Deterioration
Option: B) Outbreak
Option: C) Monitoring
Option: D) Alternative

3. What is the term for identifying a disease or illness through its signs and symptoms?

- Option: A) Pediatric
Option: B) Deterioration
Option: C) Diagnosed
Option: D) Deny

4. What type of medication is used to treat retroviruses?



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- Option: A) Contaminated
Option: B) Antiretroviral
Option: C) Adapting
Option: D) Circulating
5. Which term relates to birds?
Option: A) Pediatric
Option: B) Infection
Option: C) Avian
Option: D) Modulators
6. A condition that is present at birth is referred to as:
Option: A) Link
Option: B) Pediatric
Option: C) Cognitive
Option: D) Congenital
7. Which word means to grow or develop well?
Option: A) Alternative
Option: B) Thrived
Option: C) Sirenomelia
Option: D) Modulators
8. What is a rare and fatal congenital malformation characterized by fusion of the lower limbs?
Option: A) Contaminated
Option: B) Sirenomelia
Option: C) Monitoring
Option: D) Deny
9. What medical procedure involves moving an organ or tissue from one body to another?
Option: A) Transmission
Option: B) Cognitive
Option: C) Thrived
Option: D) Transplant
10. If something is polluted infected or harmful due to the presence of unwanted substances it is considered:
Option: A) Contaminated
Option: B) Influenza
Option: C) Link
Option: D) Alternative



Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The virus was _____ in the community leading to a surge in cases.
12. The doctor's words were _____ to the patient providing comfort and hope.
13. After the surgery the patient required close _____ to ensure recovery progress.
14. The researchers were trying to establish a _____ between the new drug and improved outcomes.
15. When traditional treatments failed the patient sought an _____ therapy.
16. The doctor identified the _____ agent responsible for the disease outbreak.
17. The virus showed signs of _____ to the host environment making treatment more challenging.
18. The patient's _____ functions were assessed after the head injury.
19. The patient's condition continued to worsen indicating _____ despite treatment.
20. The patient refused to _____ the severity of their symptoms delaying diagnosis.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Breathing in air smoke or other substances.
22. Relating to the branch of medicine dealing with children and their diseases.
23. Substances that regulate or control a particular process.
24. The process of becoming progressively worse.
25. To refuse to admit the truth or existence of something.
26. To connect or bring into relation.



27. Adjusting to new conditions or modifying to fit different circumstances.
28. Treatments to relieve or heal a disorder or illness.
29. A rare condition where a baby is born with its legs fused together.
30. Resulting in death.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. C) Transmission 2. B) Outbreak 3. C) Diagnosed 4. B) Antiretroviral 5. C) Avian 6. D) Congenital 7. B) Thrived 8. B) Sirenomelia 9. D) Transplant 10. A) Contaminated

Gap-Fill: 11. circulating 12. reassuring 13. monitoring 14. link 15. alternative 16. pathogenic 17. adapting 18. cognitive 19. deterioration 20. deny

Matching sentence: 1. inhaling 2. pediatric 3. modulators 4. deterioration 5. deny 6. link 7. adapting 8. therapies 9. sirenomelia 10. fatal

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL3

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Author

aimeeyoung99

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