

MAINTENANCE OF A LOW LEVEL OF SEX CHROMATIN IN ONE OF UNIOVULAR TWINS

W. KONOPADA

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Academy of Medicine, Warsaw, Poland

When the level of sex chromatin in a newborn female remains as low as 2-8% after the first few days of life, some genetic disorder may be involved.

A clinical case is presented where only one of MZ twins appears to be affected.

It has been known for a long time that a low percentage of sex chromatin in a female newborn maintains for a few to a dozen or so days, and later it increases to a normal level. It is to be considered as a transitional state which does not affect the further development inauspiciously. If in this period of the newborn's life the low percentage of chromatin keeps within the range of 2-8%, it is a signal that there is some genetic disorder.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE

Patient, aged 23, evidence number 762/71, P₃D₂. She arrived to the hospital clinic at the beginning of the 2nd period of the delivery, on January 20, 1971.

The interview with the family showed that the parturient woman's mother had born twins twice, each time alive and healthy. The parturient woman was born herself from a binovular pregnancy. A multiple pregnancy was diagnosed during delivery. After 25 minutes a fetus of female sex, 2400 g in weight and 45 cm in length, was born, and after the next 15 minutes, the second one, also of female sex, 2100 g in weight and 43 cm in length.

All the time during their stay in the newborn infants division, both girls developed correctly. Several pediatric examinations failed to point out any evident pathological changes in body build or in the external sex organs.

The control of the sex chromatin of the first fetus indicated its low percentage (2-10%) till the sixth day after delivery; from the seventh day on, the chromatin percentage increased; on the tenth day it attained an amount of 34% and this quantity, with small aberrations, lasts to the present day.

In the case of the second girl, the analysis of sex chromatin indicated till the sixth day also a low percentage of chromatin, but this percentage has been maintained on the same low level to the present day.

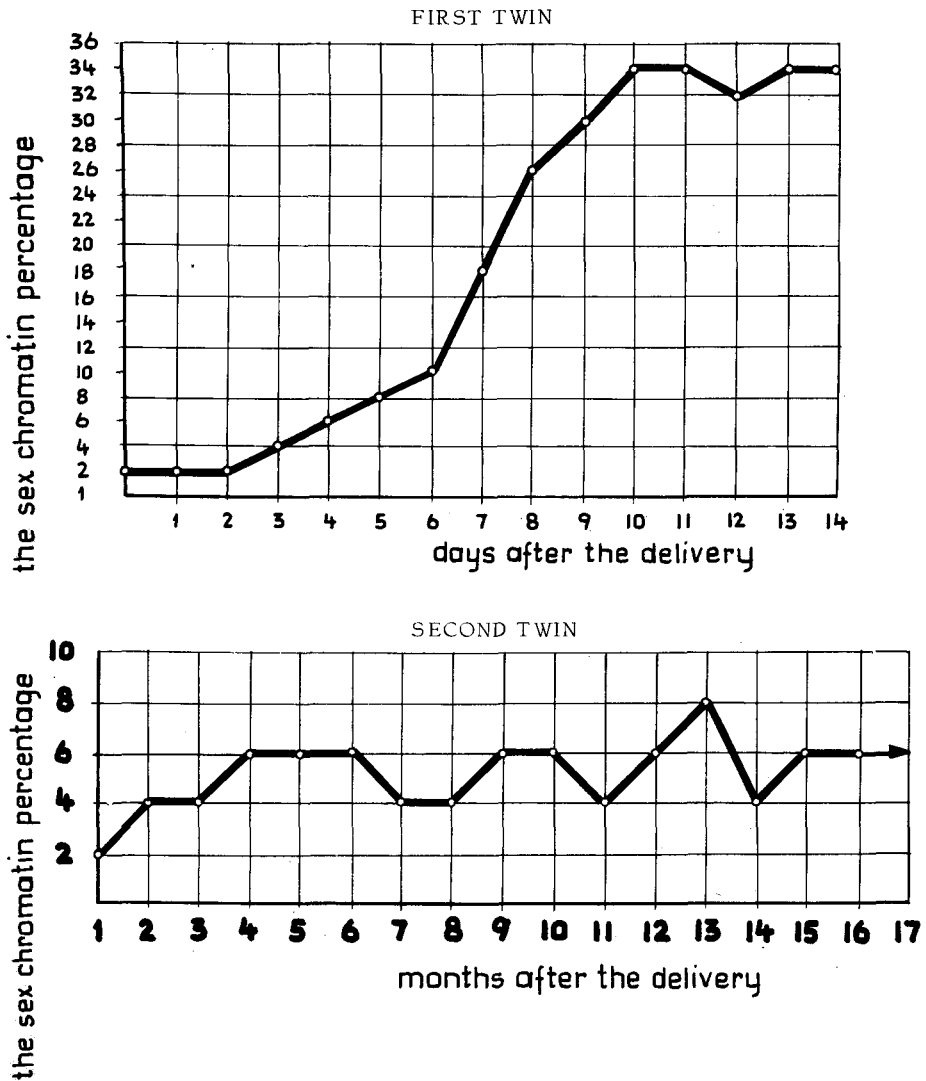


Fig. 1

Interesting is the fact that the second girl is 8 cm shorter than the first one and seems to be late, as compared to the first one, in her intellectual development, which has been confirmed by generally accepted tests.

Dr. W. Konopada, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Academy of Medicine, ul. Szaserów, Warszawa, Poland.