



Project title:

Confidential enquiry into cesareans of the second twin when the first twin was born vaginally (combined delivery)

A European project of the Clara Angela Foundation in cooperation with European twin working groups

Background:

Combined delivery is regarded as the least desirable mode of delivery as the mother suffers from a tiring labor in addition to the risks deriving from a major operation. Frequently iatrogenic measures can lead to unnecessary combined delivery. Artificial rupture of the membranes or liberal use of oxytocin without engagement of the leading part and prolonged interval between delivery of both twins cause fetal distress, uterine contraction around a malpresented fetus or even cervical spasm, leading to difficulties in delivering the second twin.

Aim of the study:

Confidential enquiry into cases with CD of the second twin, frequently a sign of iatrogenic management and avoidable errors in hands of skilled experts, therefore an indicator of training in twin deliveries.

Methods:

Copies of patient charts (the essential documentation related to pregnancy/delivery) should be submitted to a neutral address „online“ as a scanned pdf-file. Thereby the names of patients and if desired of the obstetrician in charge should be abolished. The center should indicate whether they wish a feed-back. An independent committee of at least 2 experts reviews the delivery protocol according to a pre-defined protocol, which should be transparent for all participants. Optimally all hospitals performing twin deliveries should be included in the study. The observation period should include all combined deliveries from the years 2018 and 2019 from local delivery data base systems and from 2020 onwards as soon possible after the event. After analysis of the enquiries a yearly statistic should be provided. Furthermore, hands-on courses from 2020 onwards twice yearly should be deliberately offered. The results will be published acknowledging all participants.

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