Perinatal comfort care: implications for decision-making and perinatal outcomes in pregnant patients with complex fetal anomalies

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Introduction
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Introduc0n

THERE ARE THE SAMPLES OF DESIGN
Introduction
Introduction
The prevalence of plurimalformated fetuses is **6.9/1000 births**

*Erzsébet H. Puhó, Andrew E. Czeizel, Nándor Ács and Ferenc Bánhidy - Congenital Anomalies 2008; 48, 126–136*
Introduction

Etiology Birth Defects...

- Chromosomal abnormality
- Genetic abnormality
- Teratogens
- Twinning

29% Unknown
71% Known

Erzsébet H. Puhó, Andrew E. Czeizel, Nándor Ács and Ferenc Bánhidy - Congenital Anomalies 2008; 48, 126–136
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Medical staff plays a significant role in influencing the parental decision.
Introduction
Introduction
Introduction
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Palliative care - “Comfort Care”

**innovative and compassionate model of support for parents who choose to continue their pregnancies following a prenatal diagnosis of a life-limiting condition**
Choosing to continue ... 

let things take their natural course
To investigate the effect of a perinatal Comfort Care Option on the parental decision and fetal outcome
Methods

Retrospective study 2010 - 2016

Pregnancies complicated by ultrasound-detected fetal plurimalformative syndrome
Methods

Retrospective study 2010 - 2016

All women received a personalized prenatal multispecialist counseling and care
Methods

Retrospective study 2010 - 2016

Protocol of perinatal palliative care
Results

Fetuses with multiple anomalies
Results

54% had limited life expectancy
Results

Limited life expectancy
62% women decided to continue pregnancy
87% accepted the option Comfort Care
Results

74%
Results

There was a poor outcome

- 13 fetal deaths
- 4 stillbirths
- 8 postnatal deaths

93%
93%

There was a poor outcome

BUT

2 babies are still alive
Conclusion

WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?
Conclusion
Conclusion

Decision-making factors

- Early diagnosis
- Multiple abnormalities identification
- An assessment of the fetal prognosis
Conclusion

- Early diagnosis
- Multiple abnormalities identification
- An assessment of the fetal prognosis
- Decision-making factors
COMFORT CARE was welcomed by many parents (87%) after a potential life-limiting prenatal diagnosis, to respect their baby’s life and to avoid futile medical care.
Treating sometimes, relieving often, always comforting. 

*Pierre Elliott Trudeau*