Short Communications

HMC Syndrome in Identical Twins

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Summary. Identical twins with symptoms very similar to the HMC syndrome are described.

In 1969 Bixler et al. first described two sisters with the indicating signs hypertelorism, microtia and facial clefting. They postulated a new hereditary disorder and suggested the name “HMC syndrome”.

Recently, we have seen two identical male twins whose symptoms seem to confirm the HMC syndrome as an independent clinical entity.

At the time of their examination, the twins were 18 years old. Their monozygocity was confirmed by 17 blood, serum and enzymatic markers and by a comparative morphological test.

Our twins were born at home 4 weeks before term following an unremarkable pregnancy.

Twin I Birth weight: 2000 g (other measurements unknown).
Twin II Birth weight: 1850 g; height: 46 cm; circumference of the head: 32 cm.

In twin I clefting was absent, nor was its micromanifestation demonstrated by X-ray examination.

Fig. 1. Pedigree of the twins family
Twin II, because of cleft of lip and palate on his right side, was treated for 3 months following his birth in the Marburg Children's Clinic. Surgical closure was performed in stages between 1956 and 1964 in Utrecht.