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PHENOMENON OF SIAMESE TWINS
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Relevance. Conjoined twins are a rare anomaly, which is registered 1 case per 200 thousand births. This phenomenon attracts attention for its unusual nature, and operations to separate twins are considered complex. In the view of the variability of twin fusion in the womb, the study of Siamese twins is of great interest. The relevance of the research is explained by the growing interest in the issues of bioethics, social integration and human rights.

Aim: to study the nature of the anomaly and ways to correct it; to conduct a survey among medical students about this phenomenon; to assess the possibility of Siamese twins' adapting to life in modern society.

Materials and methods. Analysis of scientific literature and articles of foreign researchers. A survey was also conducted. The students of BSMU aged 17 to 24 years took part in the online survey on a special platform.

Results and their discussion. When analyzing the questionnaires, it was revealed that 69% of the respondents are aware of the phenomenon, whereas 21.3% have a poor understanding of conjoined twins, 9.3% are unaware of it. 67% of participants agree to have an abortion if they are informed about this anomaly. Almost half of the respondents believe that such twins will be able to adapt to life in modern society, however, 32% of them believe that adaptation is impossible. Being parents of Siamese twins and assessing all the risks, only half of the interviewed students would agree to the separation, while 18% would refuse. 68% of medical students would like to participate in an operation to separate conjoined twins. The overwhelming majority (93%) of participants consider it important to support funds that provide assistance to families with disabled children.

According to research, the causes for the birth of conjoined twins are either an incompletely separated egg or the fusion of stem cells from separated eggs. Analysis of scientific literature has shown that surgical separation is the main method of correction, and adaptation in society is individual for each pair of twins.

Conclusion. The survey conducted among medical students showed that they are not only aware of the phenomenon of conjoined twins, but also show interest in studying this topic. The survey also shows the willingness of respondents to have an abortion in case of pregnancy with conjoined twins. Therefore, it is very important to inform people about the causes of the anomaly in order to avoid terminating an unwanted pregnancy. In medicine, the topic of conjoined twins occupies an important place, embodying scientific and practical interest from embryology, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery and bioethics, but the analysis of online resources demonstrated insufficient research into the causes of conjoined twins. A large number of publications on this issue and their novelty indicate the growing relevance of research on this anomaly in the scientific community.