# Rare Ischiopagus Tripus Conjoined Twins Successfully Separated in Indonesia



Conjoined twin boys were born in Indonesia in 2018 with a rare condition known as Ischiopagus Tripus, a phenomenon occurring in approximately one in 2 million births. These twins, fused at the pelvis, presented with three legs, four arms, and one shared penis, bladder, rectum, and intestine.

The twins spent the first three years of life unable to sit up and were forced to lie flat. In a challenging surgical procedure, a team of surgeons amputated the non-functional third leg and stabilized their hips and pelvic bone. This operation enabled the twins to sit upright, enhancing their independence.

Conjoined twins, representing one in 50,000 to 200,000 live births, occur when a single fertilized egg splits and develops into two embryos that fail to fully separate. Female twins are more commonly affected than males, with a 3:1 ratio. In about two-thirds of cases, one or both twins do not survive.

Ischiopagus Tripus twins like these are particularly rare, comprising only six to 11 percent of all conjoined twin cases reported in medical literature. Despite having two older, healthy children and no complications during pregnancy, the parents of the Indonesian twins faced an extraordinary medical challenge.

The surgery, while complex, resulted in no complications for the twins, as confirmed in a three-month follow-up. This successful operation marks one of the few instances globally where Ischiopagus Tripus twins have been separated to improve their quality of life.

The findings and details of the twins' condition and surgery were published in the American Journal of Case Reports.