

Multiple Pregnancy

Definition

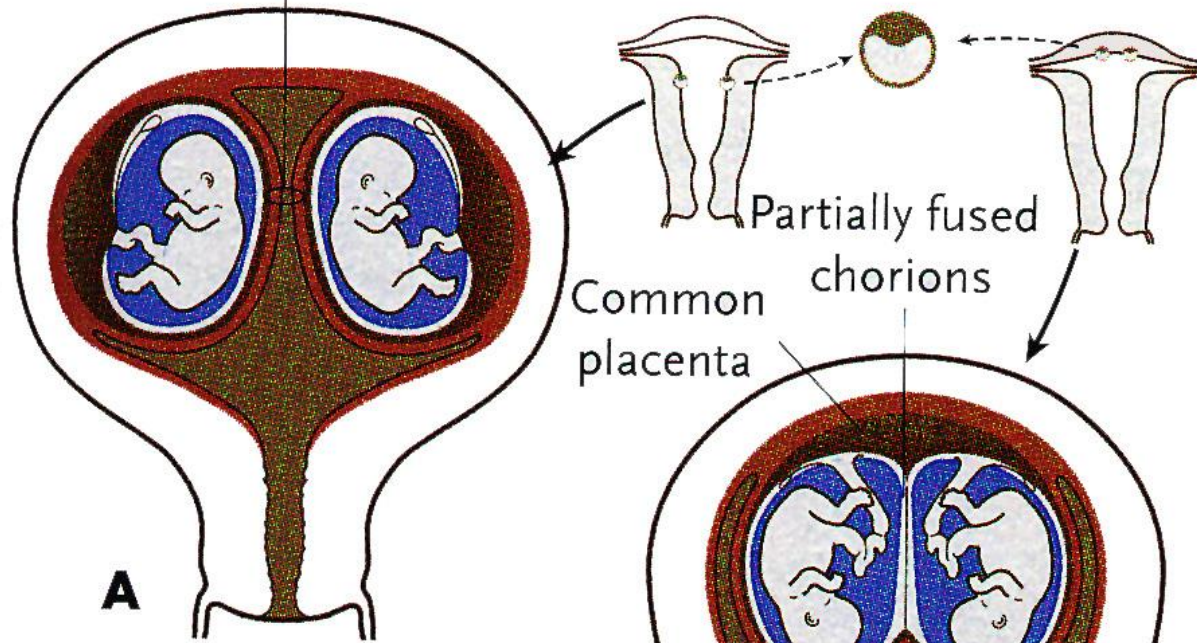
A multiple pregnancy is a pregnancy in which more than one fetus develops in the uterus at the same time. Multiple pregnancies occur in 1-2% of pregnancies. The rate of twinning (the bearing of twins) is believed to be underestimated, as twin pregnancies with a singleton (an offspring born singly) birth are usually not recorded as twins.

Description

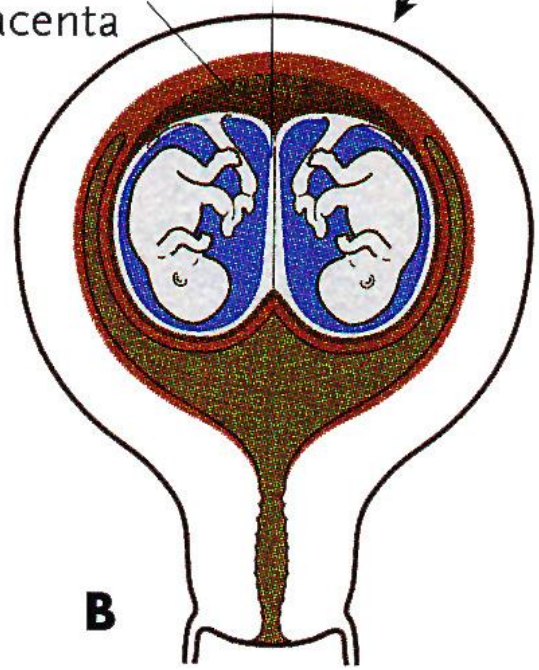
There are two categories of twins: monozygotic and dizygotic. Monozygotic twins are twins that have developed from a single fertilized ovum that split during embryonic development. These twins have the same genetic makeup and are always the same sex. They may be surrounded by one chorion (the outer embryonic membrane of the developing fetus), or may each have their own chorion. They may be surrounded by one amniotic sac (innermost of the membranes surrounding the embryo) or may each have their own amniotic sac. They may share a placenta or may each have their own placenta. These different possibilities depend on the time of the embryonic development at which the division took place. About two to 5% of monozygotic twins will share one amniotic sac. This rare occurrence puts the twins at risk for umbilical cord entanglement, cessation of blood flow, and death.

Separate chorions

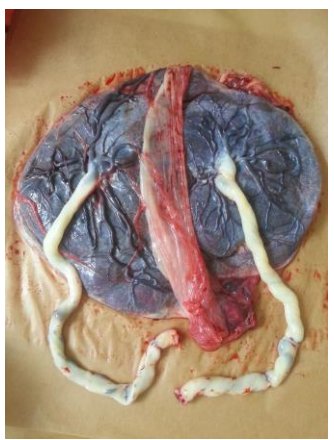
Multiple Pregnancies



Partially fused chorions
Common placenta



B

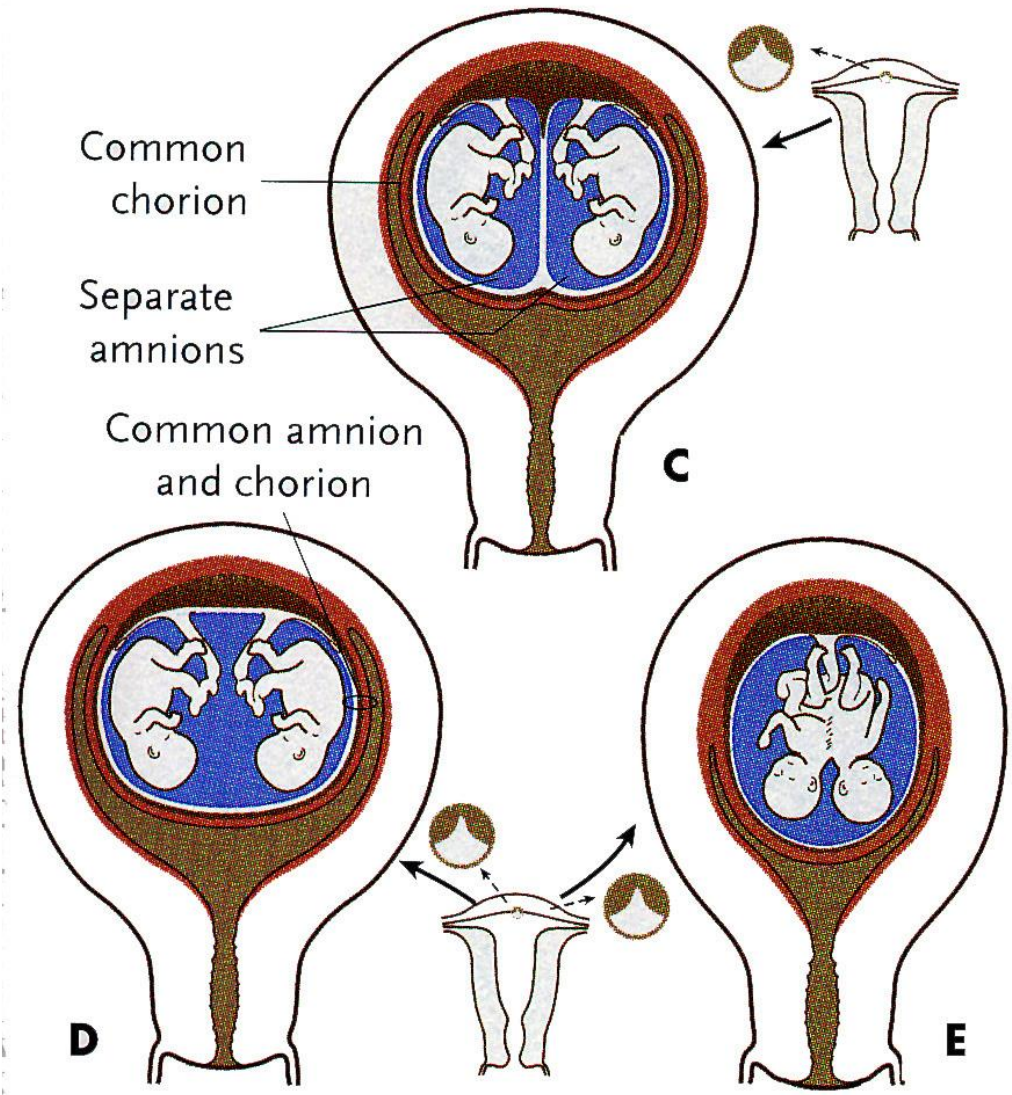


Monochorionic/Dichorionic/Dizygotic

Common chorion

Separate amnions

Common amnion and chorion



C

D

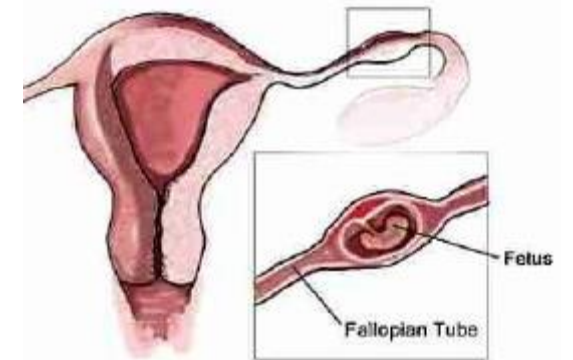
E

Monoamniotic/Diamniotic/Monozygotic

Ectopic Pregnancy

The blasyocyst normally in the endometrial lining of the uterine cavity.
Implantation **anywhere else** is an ecotpic pregnancy

- Tubal pregnancy
- Instersitial pregnancy
- Abdominal pregnancy
- Cervical pregnancy
- Ligamentous pregnancy
- Heterotopic pregnancy
- Ovarian pregnancy



References

- <https://www.encyclopedia.com/>
- [Langman's Medical Embryology](#)
- [BRS Embryology \(Board Review Series\)](#)
- [Essentials of Domestic Animal Embryology](#)