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SUMMARY:
- Female 9-month-old pygopagus conjoined twins undergoing first stage surgery, for their eventual separation
- Discussion highlights the challenges faced in the operating room

DISCUSSION:
Conjoined twins continue to be one of the most fascinating human malformations, as their incidence is extremely rare (1:200,000) live births. They are classified based on the site of union, with the thorax (thoracopagus) being the most common and the skull (craniopagus) being the least. Pygopagus, conjoined at the sacrum, is one of the rarer types, accounting for approximately 19%. Although conjoined twins come to the operating room more frequently now than in the past their operative management remains a demanding and intricate task. It requires a multidisciplinary team, involving multiple specialties and support staff, extensive medical work-up, numerous meetings and discussions, and thoughtful and meticulous planning and preparation. Finally, having adequate personnel and detailed planning on the part of the anesthesiology team, allowed for a smooth and successful anesthetic management.

REFERENCES: