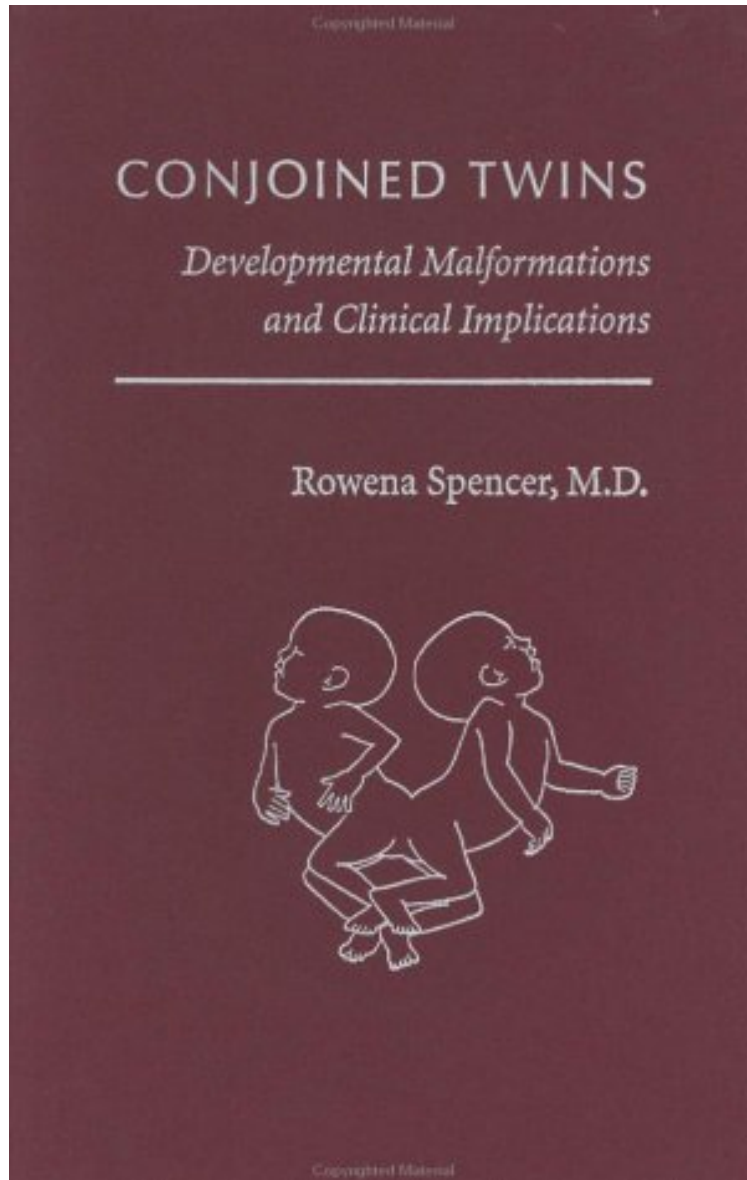


# Conjoined Twins: Developmental Malformations and Clinical Implications

Rowena Spencer MD

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**Rowena Spencer MD : Conjoined Twins: Developmental Malformations and Clinical Implications** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conjoined Twins: Developmental Malformations and Clinical Implications:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really Good Reference for Biology Behind Conjoined TwinsBy

Alison BDr. Spencer's in depth analysis of conjoined twins really pin points the biological, psychological and cognitive difficulties that conjoined twins deal with on a day to day basis. It is extremely well written and really provides the reader with ample information about several topics including embryology, types, specific cases and even information about conjoined triplets. I also found it very helpful that she organized the book into chapters primarily based on the types of conjoined twins(cephalopagus, ischopagus, etc.) and then the biological and cognitive characteristics of each type. This made it very easy to navigate and look up information about the certain aspects of conjoined twins that I was interested in. As the book seems like a novel written for the medical field, organizing the book this way makes it very applicable and useful for doctors/surgeons who are trying to learn detailed facts about conjoined twins.Perhaps the part of the book that I found most interesting was the first anecdote in the first chapter of the book describing a case of conjoined twins and how it was perceived in the middle ages. Although it was literally on the first page of the book, I found it extremely interesting and oddly relatable."In the mean Time there was a great Marvel seen in Scotland. A Bairn was born reckoned to be a Man-child; but from the Waste up, was two fair Persons, with all Members and Portraitures pertaining to two Bodies, to wit, Two Heads, well-eyed, well-eared, and well-handed." For me, this was an excellent way of opening the novel. It not only drew me into the overall identity of conjoined twins, but furthermore put the malformation into perspective. Clearly how we in modern days understand conjoined twins is much different than when it first originated and the anecdote Spencer uses really captures that.All in all, I found the book to be my companion as I was working on an assignment. I was able to flip right to pages and extract the exact information I was looking for flawlessly. Saying this, I am no master of reading so for me to be able to do that with a book as dense as this was definitely something the author should be recognized for. Despite this, there were parts of the book that were confusing and very scientific so perhaps the book would not be a good read for a leisure reader. I found myself having to google terms and cases to get some background information. Regardless, the book was very informative and thorough and truly provides and extreme amount of detail about many areas of conjoined twins. I would highly recommend this to any medical professional/student/reader who is interested in the subject and ready to learn!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. excellent medical referenceBy H. StuurwoldDr. Spencer's well-written and extremely well-researched book is an excellent medical reference on the subject of conjoined twins, including parasitic twins and fetus-in-fetu. The author studied well over 2,000 case histories in preparation for the writing of this volume, and is an expert in her field. She offers solid evidence for her view on the 'fission vs. fusion' debate.I would not recommend this volume to anyone who is not a medical professional, because the language is necessarily very technical. For the layman interested in conjoined twinning there are other, more accessible books that would be more enjoyable. For the medical researcher or professional, this book is pure gold.

Although fertility drugs are increasing the incidence of twin births, conjoined twins remain rare at about 1 in 75,000 births. Nonetheless, they present a unique opportunity to learn about human development, as well as a challenge to medical professionals. In *Conjoined Twins*, Rowena Spencer, M.D., provides a comprehensive guide that thoroughly reviews the past century's literature on the subject and develops her theory of how these cases occur.After introductory chapters on history and embryology, the book presents a separate chapter for each of the eight main types of conjoined twins. Detailed descriptions of conjoined twins are accompanied by information valuable in planning surgical treatment, as well as extensive tables summarizing the available data on each type. Conjoined triplets and unusual conjoined twins receive attention in the final two chapters. Including line illustrations and photographs, this encyclopedic book about a complex subject will be a valuable reference for the many professionals who evaluate, treat, and study conjoined twins.

"An extraordinary achievement... accessible to any practitioner who encounters a set of conjoined twins. " (R. A. Wheeler *Human Genetics*)"It is the sheer volume of detail and the most complete reference material on this subject ever compiled that make this work definitive and will mark it as the single best reference source on conjoined twins for the foreseeable future. " (Doody's Book Service)"The most comprehensive work on conjoined twinning that has ever been compiled. The book will be a 'classic' in medicine. It should remain the major reference book on this subject for the next 30 or more years. A most valuable and indispensable resource for anyone interested in or dealing with conjoined twins." (David D. Weaver, M.D., Professor of Medical and Molecular Genetics, Indiana University School of Medicine)About the AuthorRowena Spencer, M.D., is a retired pediatric surgeon who devoted much of her professional career to surgical embryology.