

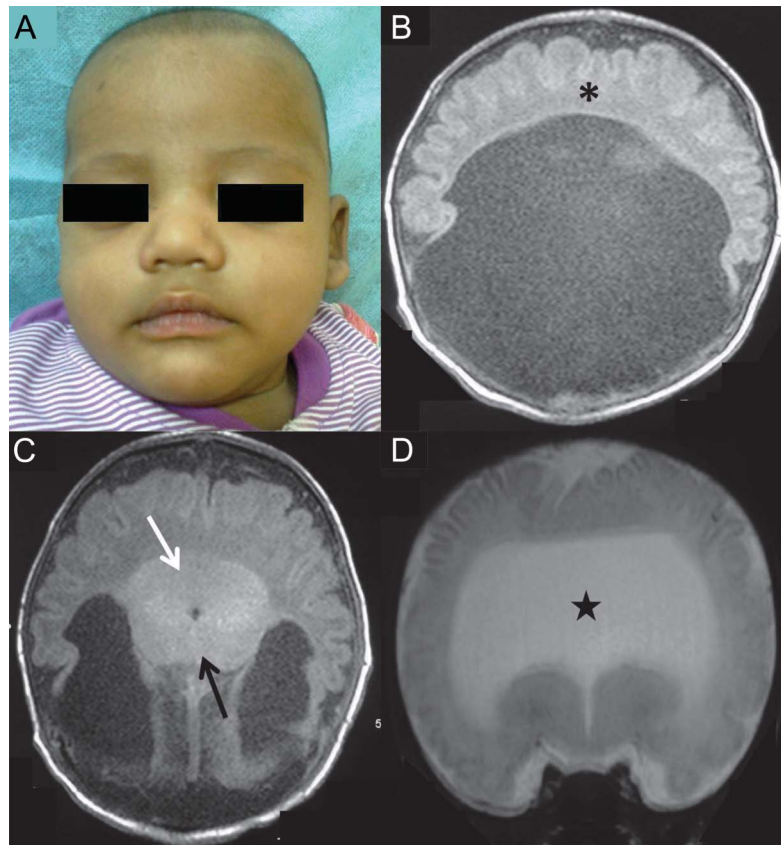
Teaching NeuroImages: Fused brain

Does face predict the brain?

Kamaldeep Arora, MD
Rashmi Ranian Das, MD
Arundeeep Arora, MD

Correspondence & reprint
requests to Dr. Arora:
arunarora7@gmail.com

Figure Alobar holoprosencephaly



(A) Clinical picture of the child showing no dysmorphism. (B, *) T1-weighted axial MRI showing fused (uncleaved) frontal lobes with absent anterior midline fissure. (C) T1-weighted sequence showing fused basal ganglia (white arrows) and fused thalami (black arrows). (D, ★) Coronal MRI showing monoventricle.

A term male infant born by normal vaginal delivery was diagnosed to have holoprosencephaly on antenatal ultrasound, which was confirmed by postnatal MRI as alobar holoprosencephaly (figure). Clinical examination revealed no microcephaly or dysmorphism, except flat nasal bridge.

Holoprosencephaly denotes an incomplete/absent division of embryonic forebrain into distinct lateral cerebral hemispheres, and is of 3 types.¹ The alobar type results in a horseshoe-shaped monoventricle, absent interhemispheric fissure, septum pellucidum,

and olfactory bulbs, fused thalami, and corpus-callosum agenesis. Facial malformations, varying from subtle to severe, are usually the mirror of underlying brain malformation, but the index case is a unique clinical lesson.²

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From the Department of Pediatrics (K.A., R.R.), Division of Neonatology, and Department of Radiodiagnosis (A.A.), All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India.

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Kamaldeep Arora, Rashmi Ranian Das and Arundeeep Arora

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