

Operative fetoscopy via telesurgery

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We describe a case in which telesurgical consultation from Tampa, Florida, USA was used to accomplish operative fetoscopy in Santiago, Chile for the treatment of a twin pregnancy involving an acardiac twin. The procedure was successful and a healthy infant was delivered at 37.5 weeks.

Operative fetoscopy, a surgical approach to correct birth defects in utero via combined ultrasound and endoscopy, is only available in a handful of centers worldwide. Telesurgery makes use of telecommunication to allow a surgeon at a primary operating site to consult with another experienced surgeon for complex surgical cases. This case illustrates the potential for ultrasound and telesurgery to expand the horizons of operative fetoscopy.