



Some physical signs in very young womb twin survivors:

- Born premature
- Small for dates
- Dermoid cyst
- Teratoma
- Additional fingers and/or toes

Characteristic behaviour in young womb twin survivors:

- Crying/miserable for long periods and not easily soothed
- Wanting to be held close to someone's body
- Not wanting to be left alone, especially at night
- Often fearful and anxious
- Enhanced capacity to survive medical or surgical interventions
- Obsessed with death and dying
- The child has an imaginary friend
- Hypersensitivity
- Attachment to inanimate objects
- Loves animals and yearns for a pet
- Unusually aware of how people are feeling

For more information on womb twin kids visit -

www.wombtwin.com/families

Womb Twin Survivors

Physical signs

- A chimera or mosaic
- A parasitic twin
- A fetus in fetu
- A teratoma or dermoid cyst
- A fetus papryaceous
- A "vanishing twin" pregnancy
- The miscarriage of one twin
- The abortion of one twin
- The rescue of one twin from twin-twin transfusion
- The intrauterine death of one twin
- One twin stillborn
- One twin dies close to birth

Psychological signs

- A lifelong sense of something missing
- Fear of rejection
- Not realising one's potential
- Feeling different from other people
- Searching for something unknown
- Feeling alone, even among friends
- Fear of abandonment
- A problem with anger, too much or too little
- Perpetual feeling of dissatisfaction
- Two very different sides to one's character
- Hypersensitivity
- Unexplained feeling of sadness



We provide information
and support for womb twin
survivors of all ages
around the world

Information on young
womb twin survivors

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WOMB TWIN

Helping womb twin survivors of all ages with information and support

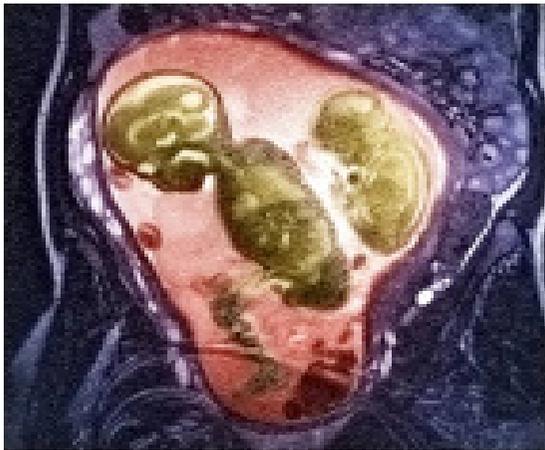
Since the 1980s and the discovery of “vanishing twin” pregnancies, more and more babies are being identified as the sole survivors of a twin or multiple conception - womb twin survivors. Many more are growing up with a strange sense of “being a twin” but with no evidence to prove it. Althea Hayton, a writer, therapist and womb twin survivor herself, has been studying the physical signs and personality traits that are characteristic of womb twin survivors. She carried out the womb twin survivors research project in 2003.

In 2007 she founded Womb Twin, a non-profit company with members and associates throughout the world, to provide much-needed information and support for womb twin survivors of all ages and their families.

Among the many physical indications of being a womb twin survivor are cerebral palsy, epilepsy, extra fingers and toes, midline defects such as “harelip” and gender dysphoria - which may include secondary sexual characteristics of the opposite sex. The specific physical indications can indicate whether the twin was monozygotic (one fertilized egg split into two), dizygotic (two separately fertilized eggs) or a multiple conception including both kinds of twinning. For example, cerebral palsy has been connected to monozygotic twinning and gender dysphoria to opposite sex dizygotic twinning.

It has been calculated that for every intact twin pair who reach birth alive, there are ten babies born alone who were conceived as a twin or multiple - they are the womb twin survivors.

There are more than 600 million womb twin survivors in the world - 10% of the entire population - but until recently we could not identify them. We can now: ultrasound scans and other technologies have opened up a window on the womb and we can see these tiny twins. Every day, pregnant or newly-delivered mothers around the world are learning that one of their twins has died. But that is not the end of the story. The sole survivors have a need to understand why they feel as they do.



MRI scan of 12-week fraternal twins. One twin is very much smaller and will not be born alive. In the mind of the survivor there will remain a deep impression of Someone Else who died and was gone.



The Womb Twin Kids project was carried out in 2011. The project was important as young womb twin survivors need to know about their twin. Parents find it hard to talk about it.

What should a parent do?

- Understand that the loss of a twin before or around birth has a real physical and emotional effect. That means there is a meaning to the signs, symptoms and behaviour that your child may display.
- Be clear in your own head that the lost twin is a real little “person who might have been” and is probably going to be

What should a parent do? (continued)

an important person in the life of your little womb twin survivor.

- Notice anything that seems to indicate that your child has a sense of their twin still “with them” in some way. That includes chatting in “baby talk” to someone who isn’t there; staring at some area of the room as if “seeing” someone there.

- Provide a surrogate twin in the form of a cuddly toy. A teddy bear is good - one the size of a newborn baby is excellent. If the child becomes fixated on the toy and will not be separated from it, that is proof that a close attachment is needed, so do allow the child to take the toy everywhere and make sure it is never lost!

Useful books and ebooks can be obtained from our website www.wombtwin.com/wtk-books

