

CODE: T8900 M2641

ID NOS: Donated specimen

DIAGNOSIS: FOETUS – FOETUS PAPYRACEUS

CLINICAL HISTORY: F/36. Twin pregnancy was noted on ultrasound at 18 weeks gestation. A second foetus was thought to have perished at 12 week. A healthy 7lb female baby was delivered at term after 3 hours labour. Following the third stage of labour, a foetus papyraceus was delivered. In between the membranes of the placenta a second foetus papyraceus was identified.

MACROSCOPIC: The specimen consists of a well formed “mummified foetus” crown to rump length of 6.5cm, consistent with 12-13 weeks gestation. The skeletal structures are well identified. The foetus is attached to mummified placental tissue.

COMMENT: The term fetus papyraceus is used to describe a mummified fetus associated with multiple gestations where one fetus dies and is flattened between the membranes of the living fetus and the uterine wall.

