

Phocomelia

Phocomelia (from the Greek φωκη = „seal“ and μελος = „limb“^[1]) belongs to atrophic congenital defects of the upper (sometimes lower) limb.

Phocomelia was one of the typical components of the so-called thalidomide syndrome (at the turn of the 1960s, around 6,000 children were born worldwide with various malformations caused by the teratogenic effect of thalidomide - see Congenital developmental defects for more details).^[2]

Definition

- Complete longitudinal defect on the upper limb of the humerus, radius, ulna, possibly the carpus + on the lower limb of the femur, tibia, fibula, possibly the tarsus.
- On the upper limb, a more or less normal hand sits directly on the shoulder girdle, on the lower limb, the foot on the pelvic girdle.^[3]

Therapy

- Individuals affected by phocomelia of the upper limbs mainly used preserved lower limbs for self-care.
- Today, we solve this defect with tension / electric prostheses, controlled by a phocomelic hand.
- Phocomelia of the lower limbs is treated prosthetically as a bilateral disarticulation in the hip joint.^[3]

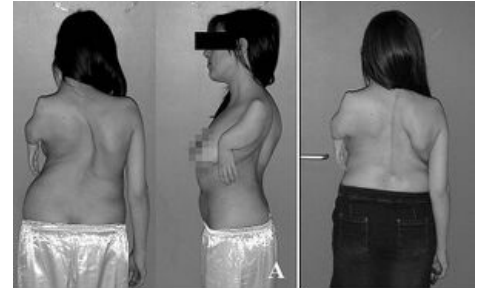


Image of phocomelia

Links

External links

- Fokomelie (czech wikipedia)
- Phocomelia (english wikipedia)

References

1. MedicineNet. *Definition of Phocomelia* [online]. [cit. 27.9.2009]. <[www.medterms.com \(https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=4877\)](https://www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=4877)>.
2. KALTER, H.. *Teratology in the Twentieth Century. Congenital Malformations in Humans and how their Environmental Causes were Established*. 1. edition. Amsterdam : Elsevier, 2003. 166 pp. ISBN 978-0-444-51364-9.
3. SOSNA, A. – VAVŘÍK, P., et al. *Základy ortopedie*. 1. edition. Praha : Triton, 2001. ISBN 80-7254-202-8.