Abductor Pollicis Brevis
Bilateral Congenital Absence

I counted two cases of bilateral congenital absence of the abductor pollicis brevis (APB) in the medical literature. Thus this presentation could be the third. Here, the APB and the opponent pollicis were completely absent in both hands. In contrast, the adductor pollicis and the flexor pollicis brevis were quite present. Many papers concerning this anomaly were published. But all were of unilateral congenital absence of APB.

The patient is a young male with no thenar eminence in both hands. There was no other congenital anomaly elsewhere. He did well in every daily jobs. He sought medical care just to know why his hands looked different from the others. I did nothing but assuring him and explaining the nature of his case.

Figure (1)
Bilateral congenital absence of Abductor Pollicis Brevis.
The thenar eminences were flattened in both hands.

The anomaly was isolated without any major consequences on the hand capability.
The thumbs and the rest of both hands were sensible and very well active.
The abduction of both thumbs has a little bit reduced but with no major consequence.

I was waiting the patient to come back with the MRI and the EMG for his both hands. So I delayed the publication of this paper for many months. Unfortunately, the patient has never come back again after, maybe, he was ascertained of the banality of his anomaly. The absence of both the APB and opponent muscle, and the presence of the adductor muscle, have been determined by the physical examination. Similarly, the presence of Flexor Pollicis Brevis was determined by the stability of the first metacarpophalangeal joint.