

Humerus Diaphysis Fracture In A Newborn During Vaginal Breech Delivery: A Case Report

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INTRODUCTION:

Most obstetricians are familiar with clavicle fracture in newborn during birth. Newborn with humerus diaphysis fracture in vaginal breech delivery is a rare occurrence. It is traumatic to the neonate, the family and the obstetrician to find it difficult to explain. We reported a case of humerus diaphysis fracture in a newborn via vaginal breech delivery.

MATERIALS & METHODS:

A primigravida woman admitted in active labour with twin pregnancies at 36 weeks of gestation. Her labor progressed spontaneously. Her first twin baby was in cephalic presentation and it was an uneventful vaginal delivery. Second twin baby was in breech presentation.

RESULTS:

Breech extraction was done by obstetrician and subsequently posterior right arm delivered. Then obstetrician was having difficulty in delivering the left anterior shoulder as it was in hyperextended position and noted cord prolapsed as well. Thus forceful traction to the left arm done to rescue the newborn. When the left humerus was broken, the fetal head was quickly delivered. The first minute Apgar score was 7 and the 5 min Apgar score was 9. The baby's weight is 2060 gram. The baby's broken arm was immobilized with splint.



Figure 1: X-ray showed displaced left humerus diaphysis fracture after vaginal breech delivery.



Figure 2: Radiological appearance of left humerus after immobilization with splint

DISCUSSION:

Historically, long-bone fractures have been attributed to breech maneuvers at vaginal delivery. Performing accurate and expert delivery technique with immediate evaluation and timely orthopedic intervention during and after delivery will prevent the fracture and help in avoiding deformities. Early identification of obstetric factors and improvement in obstetric care of both the mothers and babies during delivery would reduce the incidence. It is important to examine the neonates thoroughly after delivery to detect birth injuries and manage promptly.

CONCLUSION:

Long bone fractures are still one of the most feared complications of birth. Forced breech maneuvers at either vaginal or cesarean section delivery can cause fetal injuries including long bone fractures. Fortunately humerus fractures heal with simple immobilization without long term deformity.

REFERENCE:

Humerus diaphysis fracture of a newborn during vaginal breech delivery; Kaya B, Daglar HK, Kirbas A; Ankara, Turkey