

Calcinosis Cutis – Limb Abnormality Accidentally Found In Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Mistakenly Diagnosed As Brachial Plexus Injury

¹Jasmin L; ²Loo WC

¹ Orthopaedic Department, Hospital Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, Temerloh, Pahang

INTRODUCTION:

Calcinosis cutis is a medical condition characterized by the deposition of calcium salts in the skin and subcutaneous tissue. These deposits can occur in various forms, such as nodules, plaques, or diffuse infiltration. Calcinosis cutis is often associated with underlying medical conditions, such as autoimmune diseases like systemic sclerosis (scleroderma), dermatomyositis, or lupus.

REPORT:

This is a case of premature female baby born at 36 weeks via lower segment caesarean section. Post-delivery, baby was admitted to neonatal intensive care unit for acute respiratory distress syndrome and treated as congenital pneumonia which also requiring prolonged ventilation. She also treated for persistent hypocalcemia likely secondary to Vitamin D deficiency with soft dysmorphism to rule out Noonan syndrome. During admission, intravenous cannula was inserted over dorsal aspect of the right hand with multiple infusion of IV calcium gluconate including antibiotics.

On day 16 of life, baby was referred to orthopedic for Erb's palsy in view of deformity noted over right wrist. It is described as waiter's tip deformity over right upper limb, with reduce of movement compared to the opposite site. Upon assessment, there is indurated area over dorsal aspect of hand up to the wrist region with evidence of thrombophlebitis. In addition, there is present of reduce of movement of dorsiflexion over right wrist. Radiographically showed a subcutaneous calcium deposition on dorsal aspect of hand and wrist. She was diagnosed with calcinosis cutis following the extravasation of calcium gluconate on the right

wrist. Baby was treated conservatively with close monitoring over right upper limb.



CONCLUSION:

As calcinosis cutis is considered as non-orthopedic related disease, this rare case of rare cause should be known as state of awareness towards all as it may cause by iatrogenic complication of intervention towards patient.

REFERENCES:

1. A Arora, S kumar. 2005. Iatrogenic calcinosis cutis, a rare differential diagnosis of soft tissue infection in neonate.
2. Cuong Lel, Paul M. Bedocs. 2023. Calcinosis Cutis.