

Scurvy - The Eyes Can't See What The Mind Doesn't Know

¹Mohd Fadhil S, ¹Mohamed Khaliq I

¹Orthopaedic Department, Hospital Sultanah Nur Zahirah, Jalan Sultan Mahmud, 20400 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu.

INTRODUCTION:

Scurvy is a nutritional disorder caused by vitamin C deficiency. Prevalence among modern world has been seen rarely but lately it has been increasing reported in children especially in those with abnormal dietary habits, mental or physical disabilities.

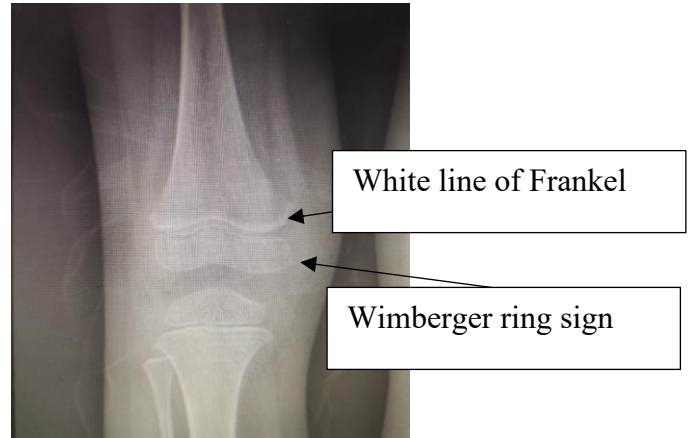
REPORT:

3 years old girl complaint of unable to walk for 3 weeks with bilateral lower limb pain and weakness. Clinically child alert, bilateral lower limb tone and reflexes normal, no skin changes, no joint swelling, no localized pain.

Electrolytes and septic parameter are normal excepts for CRP which is slightly raised. X-ray bilateral hip, knee and ultrasound hip not suggestive of septic arthritis.

Patient was treated as Guillain Barre syndrome, intravenous Immunoglobulin but no improvement. MRI whole spine was planned but noticed by radiologist that patient had white line of Frankel on bilateral knee x-ray suggestive of scurvy. Ultrasound bilateral hip repeated revealed subperiosteal hematoma at bilateral proximal femoral diaphysis. She was given vitamin C and multivitamin as treatment. Upon follow up patient show improvement.

Scurvy typically presented with oral and skin symptoms such as bleeding gums, easy bruising, skin rashes, fragility and delayed wound healing. However, in the pediatric population, an acute limp can be the only presenting manifestation of scurvy¹ thus making most patient diagnosed as oncologic condition such as leukemia and bone neoplasia followed by infectious disease.



Classic scurvy X-ray signs found in most studies were calcification at the metaphysis (lines of Fränkel) and calcification around the epiphysis (Wimberger ring sign).¹

The treatment for scurvy is vitamin C supplementation and the reversal of the conditions that led to the deficiency.

CONCLUSION:

In patient with lower limb weakness, scurvy can be one of the differential diagnosis that need to be excluded through thorough history and clinical examination.

REFERENCES:

1. Trapani S, Rubino C, Indolfi G, Lionetti P. A Narrative Review on Pediatric Scurvy: The Last Twenty Years. *Nutrients*. 2022 Feb 6;14(3):684. doi: 10.3390/nu14030684. PMID: 35277043; PMCID: PMC8840722.