

Case Report On Spontaneous Onset Of Hip And Knee Septic Arthritis In A Newborn

¹ Abd Jabar F,¹Rajendran T

¹Orthopaedic Department , Hospital Segamat, KM 6 Jalan Genuang 85000 Segamat, Johor, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION:

Septic arthritis in newborn is a rare but leads to devastating complications which usually affects large joints in the body. This report describes a case of spontaneous-onset hip and knee septic arthritis in a neonate and the use of external fixator as modified Gallow's traction.

REPORT:

A nine-day-old baby girl, born term at 38 weeks, had no prenatal risk factors, presented with poor oral intake and irritability for 3 days. On examination, baby was noted to be crying and in pain upon motion of left hip and knee with limited range of motion.

Laboratory investigations revealed elevated inflammatory markers, including C-reactive protein (CRP) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), suggesting an ongoing infection. Blood cultures were negative. X-ray bilateral lower limb shows osteomyelitic changes over left knee. Ultrasonography of hip showed suspicious of left hip subluxation but no collection or effusion.

Intravenous antibiotic was initiated and arthrotomy washout of left hip and knee was done. Intraoperatively, left knee and hip had turbid synovial fluid, thickened and inflamed synovium with medial femoral condyle irregularity of left knee noted. Postoperatively, a modified Gallow's traction using external fixator was used to keep hip in extended to prevent joint stiffness and to maintain hip reduction.

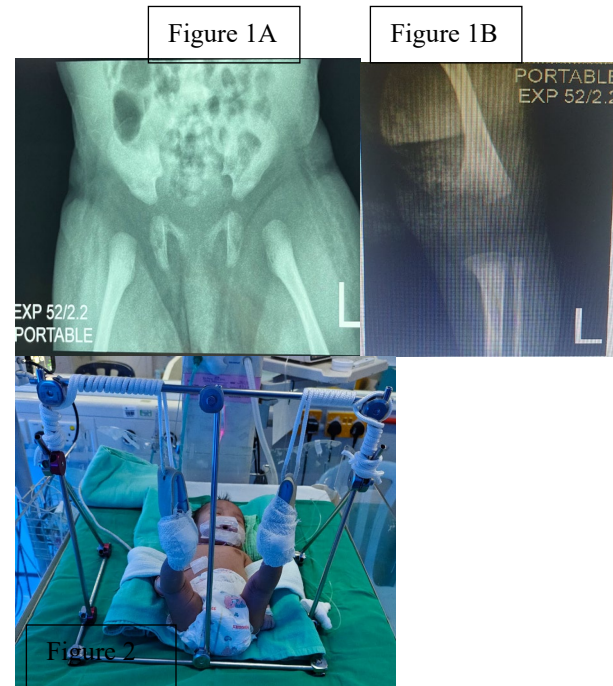


Figure 1 :xray of pelvis and left knee

Figure 2:baby on gallow's traction

CONCLUSION:

Spontaneous septic arthritis in newborns is rare but serious, with an estimated incidence of 1 to 5 cases per 100,000 live births. It accounts for about 0.3 to 3% of all septic arthritis cases. Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to prevent joint destruction, growth disturbances and long term disability. The prognosis is good with early intervention but delays can lead to significant morbidity.

REFERENCES:

1. Narang A, Mukhopadhyay K, Kumar P, Bhakoo ON: Bone and joint infection in neonates. *Indian J Pediatr.* 1998, 65:461-4. 10.1007/BF02761144
2. Murali SK, Abdelbaki H, Elbaz M, Hanafin K, Jain M, Elsayed S, Inayat M, Ossuetta IR. Septic Arthritis of Neonates: A Rare Case Report. *SVOA Paediatrics* 2023, 2:5, 141-144.