Iatrogenic Calcinosis Cutis In 2 Months-Old Infant: A Case Report

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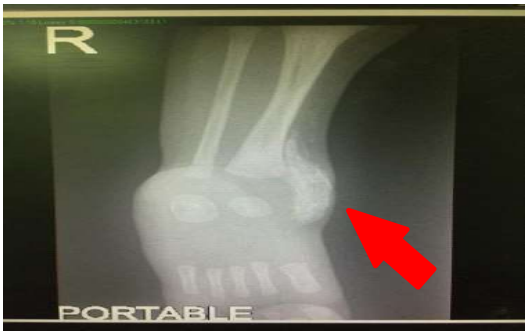
Introduction

Virchow described calcinosis cutis (CC) in 1855. It is a rare condition characterized by deposition of insoluble calcium phosphate in the skin. Dystrophic CC is an uncommon form of healing following extravasations of intravenous medication in neonates. They usually presented with swelling and inflammatory signs, which mimic serious infections of bone, joints and soft tissues. Recognition by awareness and radiography is the key to diagnosis.

Report

A 2-month-old male infant was brought to the outpatient clinic by his mother after noted on the medial surface of the right ankle was 5–10 mm in diameter, erythematous, smooth surface and firm in consistency. Clinically it was non-tender, mild indurations but ankle joint movements were full. There was history of two admissions to neonatal intensive care unit for bronchopneumonia since birth. Antibiotics, parenteral fluids, and medications including calcium gluconate were administered using the peripheral veins of both upper and lower limbs. The infant had normal serum mineral values and renal function tests. He was followed up for 6 months. The swelling had resolved and disappeared spontaneously with no residual deformity.



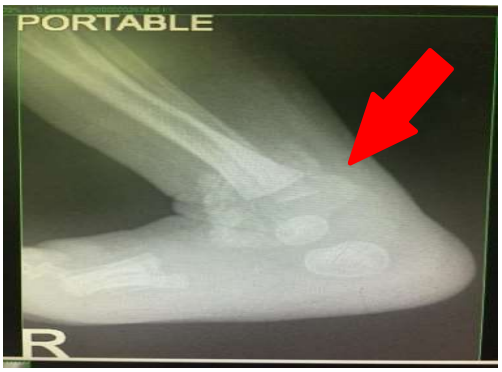


Figure 1 showing medial side of right ankle extra osseous calcification.

Discussion

The pathogenesis of CC is multifactorial. There are five types of CC which divided according to etiology: metastatic, dystrophic, iatrogenic, calciphylaxis and idiopathic. Iatrogenic type is rare but occurs in neonates who are subjected to multiple heel pricks or punctures for intravenous access as can see in this case. The pattern of calcification is determined by the site and extent of extravasation along the blood vessel sheaths or fascial planes. The mean period reported between infusion and appearance of a clinical lesion is 13 days. Some literatures suggested intralesional triamcinolone injection or surgical interventions. However, our treatment remains conservative. This report emphasis the importance of identify this uncommon albeit innocent condition to avoid unnecessary surgical procedures.

References

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