PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Meromelia in a Newborn- A Rare Congenital Anomaly

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A term, 2.6 kg, female child was born of a non consanguineous marriage to a primigravida *via* vaginal mode at the authors' institute. The child had major limb anomalies at birth. The right leg showed terminal transverse limb deficiency just below the knee joint while there was terminal transverse deficiency at distal third of left forearm (Fig. 1). Rest of the systemic examination was normal. Ultrasound head, abdomen and 2D echocardiography were normal. Family history and antenatal history (including drug intake, radiation exposure, febrile illness and rash) were negative. The antenatal ultrasound was done in first trimester only which was normal. The baby was asymptomatic and attached to pediatric orthopedic unit for rehabilitation and prosthesis at a later stage.

Limb defects are described as meromelia (partial absence) or amelia (complete absence) of one or more limbs. Phocomelia is a type of meromelia where rudimentary hands or feet are attached to trunk by small, irregularly shaped bones. The international society for prosthetics and orthotics (ISPO) classification describes limb deficiencies as either transverse (no distal skeletal remains- as index case) or longitudinal (has distal portions) [1]. Etiological factors include genetic, teratogens (infamous-thalidomide use), vascular disruptions and ischemia, chemicals and radiation exposure [2]. Children with limb anomalies have associated malformations like craniofacial, gastrointestinal, heart, kidney and nervous system. The present case was unique that child had only isolated limb meromelia with no other congenital anomalies.

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Fig. 1 Newborn with meromelic limb anomalies

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