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Extended spinal dysraphism: Rachischisis or myeloschisis

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Description

Myeloschisis (rachischisis) is a rare congenital malformation linked to incomplete development of the spine and characterized by posterior opening of the vertebrae [1,2]. It is spread over more than one floor or even the entire spine and incompatible with life. Its diagnosis is clinical, confirmed by ultrasound and cross-sectional imaging [2].

This anomaly in its thoracic location is rare. There are two types: Segmentation and development defects [4]. Developmental defects include hemi vertebrae and failure of neural tube fusion which in turn includes the simple cleft of the posterior arch of the vertebrae (spina bifida) [3].

It can involve one or more vertebral arches, determining extensive spinal dysraphism. Certain factors favor their appearance.

According to the literature, only one article published in 1972 by Levy et al, which reported an incidence of 0.01% of thoracic spina bifida [3].

We report the case of a 33-day-old female infant born at term in breech presentation, with a pregnancy that was not well followed. There was a notion of taking fenugreek during pregnancy. Hospitalized for meningitis, with a dysmorphic face, clinically presented a dorsolumbar spina bifida (Figure 1).

She had received antibiotic therapy and regular dressings since her admission. A cerebral-medullary scan was performed and showed a progressive opening of the spinous processes from the cervical and dorsal spine, more marked at the height of the spinous process of the fourth dorsal vertebra to distality, with issue of meningeal structures and spinal cord.

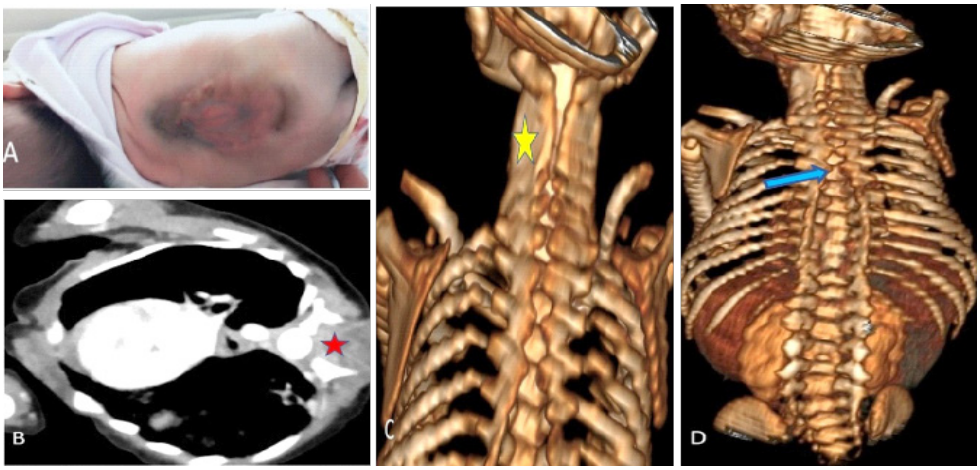

Figure 1: Myeloschisis presentation (A) and CT scan axial section (B) and 3D reconstruction (C, D), showed a progressive opening of the spinous processes from the cervical and dorsal spine (yellow and red stars), more marked at the height of the spinous process of the fourth dorsal vertebra (blue arrow) to distality, with issue of meningeal structures and spinal cord (red star).

Conflicts of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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