Scrotal abscess in a neonate

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Acute scrotum in a neonate is a surgical emergency, requiring immediate investigative workup and management to prevent potential complications.

Case Report:

A term small for gestational age male baby weighing 2126 grams was born at our hospital to a 20-year-old primigravida, with a medical history significant for severe preeclampsia and seizures. Examination revealed localized swelling on the right side of the scrotum, which was fluctuant and tender to touch (Fig 1). There was no hematoma formation. Trans-illumination was negative. High-resolution scrotal ultrasonography was done, and showed a fluctuant collection suggestive of an abscess.

The baby was treated with intravenous antibiotics, consisting of chloramphenicol, gentamicin, amikacin. Other investigations revealed normal total and differential counts; pus culture revealed heavy growth of *Escherichia coli*, sensitive to chloramphenicol, gentamicin, amikacin, ciprofloxacin and cefotaxime. Urine microscopy, culture, and blood culture were normal. Baby was negative for HIV.

Baby continued to accept breast-feeds well and was discharged after 14 days of intravenous antibiotics. Further follow-up over the next twelve months did not reveal any complications.

Discussion:

Scrotal abscess in a neonate is an extremely rare condition. The most common cause of acute scrotum
Scrotal abscess in a neonate?

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Circumcision can be a predisposing factor for scrotal abscess as suspected in a case reported by Kammal Uwyyed et al in 1990 (5). On extensive literature search, three reports of infected hydrocele sac were found; *E. coli* was isolated from two and *Gram negative bacilli* from the third case. All the cases were treated by surgical drainage and antibiotics (6, 7, 8). Gabriel Dinari et al reported a neonatal scrotal abscess having umbilical arteritis, phlebitis and peritonitis, caused by *Group A Hemolytic Streptococci* (9).

Isolate of *E. coli* in our case was consistent with isolates from other cases of scrotal abscess, which emphasizes on *E. Coli* and other *Gram negative bacilli* being the common etiological agents. We conclude that many of the scrotal pathologies can present as acute scrotum in ... studies that have been used include Doppler stethoscope, Radionucliede scanning of the testicles using Technitium *99*, high resolution Colour Doppler Ultrasound and Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Early and accurate diagnosis is essential, ... the likelihood of salvigibility of gonad. Thus early recognition and prompt management of the condition is warranted.

References:


Legends for Photographs

Fig 1 : Right sided scrotal abscess

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