

Images in neonatal medicine

Human herpesvirus-6 associated neonatal urticaria multiforme

An 18-day-old neonate was referred to our hospital because of an urticarial rash that had appeared a few hours before. On examination, skin lesions were present on the face, trunk, arms and legs. These appeared as sharply demarcated, erythematous and infiltrated, irregularly shaped, and partially desquamating papules and plaques. The infant appeared otherwise healthy, neither with lymphadenopathy nor hepatosplenomegaly. Pregnancy history was unremarkable, and serologic tests excluded congenital infections. Exposure to drugs or substances was excluded. At admission, C reactive protein was 10.9 mg/l, and total white blood cell count was $3.0 \times 10^9/l$ (neutrophils: $1.7 \times 10^9/l$; lymphocytes: $1.0 \times 10^9/l$). A peripheral blood smear showed only a slight and non-significant increase (2%) in the number of activated/atypical lymphocytes. Wide spectrum antibiotics were started. Three days

after admission, a complete recovery of skin lesions was observed. Blood and pharyngeal swab cultures were negative. Serological and virological tests demonstrated no infection by cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, parvovirus B19 and human herpesvirus-7 (HHV-7). Conversely, real time PCR for viral DNA revealed HHV-6 infection (28400 copies/ml). Antibiotic therapy was interrupted and the infant was discharged home to the care of his parents. Follow-up after 1 month showed a decrease of viral DNA (300 copies/ml) and persistence of clinical remission.

Alessandro Borghesi,¹ Paola Cipelletti,¹ Roberta Maragliano,¹ Paolo Manzoni,² Mauro Stronati¹

¹Neonatologia, Patologia Neonatale e Terapia Intensiva, Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico "San Matteo", Pavia, Italy

²Neonatology and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, S. Anna Hospital, Azienda Ospedaliera Regina Margherita-S. Anna, Torino, Italy

Correspondence to Alessandro Borghesi, Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Piazzale Golgi n. 19, 27100, Pavia, Italy; alessandroborghesi@yahoo.it



Figure 1 HHV-6 associated skin lesions.

Images in neonatal medicine

Acknowledgments The authors thank the parents of the infant for permitting publication of the images in the journal.

Contributors Borghesi: conception, acquisition of data, drafting the article, final approval of the version published. Cipelletti: management of the patient, acquisition and interpretation of data, drafting the article, final approval of the version published. Maragliano: management of the patient, acquisition and interpretation of data, drafting the article, final approval of the version published. Manzoni: analysis of data, critical revision of the manuscript, drafting of the article, final approval of the

version published. Stronati: conception, drafting the article, critical revision of the manuscript, final approval of the version published.

Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained from the parents.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

Received 5 March 2012

Accepted 30 April 2012



Human herpesvirus-6 associated neonatal urticaria multiforme

Alessandro Borghesi, Paola Cipelletti, Roberta Maragliano, et al.

Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed published online June 9, 2012
doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2012-301995

Updated information and services can be found at:
<http://fn.bmj.com/content/early/2012/06/08/archdischild-2012-301995.full.html>

These include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| P<P | Published online June 9, 2012 in advance of the print journal. |
| Email alerting service | Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article. |
-

Topic Collections

Articles on similar topics can be found in the following collections

[Drugs: infectious diseases](#) (142 articles)
[Competing interests \(ethics\)](#) (41 articles)
[Dermatology](#) (28 articles)
[Immunology \(including allergy\)](#) (265 articles)
[Journalology](#) (46 articles)
[Oncology](#) (132 articles)
[Pregnancy](#) (856 articles)
[Reproductive medicine](#) (803 articles)

Advance online articles have been peer reviewed, accepted for publication, edited and typeset, but have not yet appeared in the paper journal. Advance online articles are citable and establish publication priority; they are indexed by PubMed from initial publication. Citations to Advance online articles must include the digital object identifier (DOIs) and date of initial publication.

To request permissions go to:
<http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>

To order reprints go to:
<http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform>

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
<http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/>

Notes

Advance online articles have been peer reviewed, accepted for publication, edited and typeset, but have not yet appeared in the paper journal. Advance online articles are citable and establish publication priority; they are indexed by PubMed from initial publication. Citations to Advance online articles must include the digital object identifier (DOIs) and date of initial publication.

To request permissions go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions>

To order reprints go to:

<http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform>

To subscribe to BMJ go to:

<http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/>