

Anaesthetic management of amniotic band syndrome: A case report

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ABSTRACT

Amniotic Band Syndrome (ABS) is a complex congenital condition caused by strands of amniotic sac associated with a broad spectrum of anomalies. It is also known as amniotic band sequence, Amniotic Deformity, Adhesions, Mutilations (ADAM) complex, congenital constriction rings, constriction band syndrome, limb body wall complex, Streeter anomaly, Streeter dysplasia, Annular grooves, Congenital amputation, Pseudoainhulm^[1]. The abnormalities vary from isolated to multiple bizarre disfiguring complications involving craniofacial region, limbs and visceral organs. General anaesthesia is the preferred choice for surgical correction of anomalies.

Key words: Amniotic band syndrome, High arched palate, Syndactyly

INTRODUCTION

Amniotic Band Syndrome is a rare congenital deformity with a broad spectrum of structural abnormalities ranging from minor constricting rings and lymphedema of digits to major craniofacial and limb body wall defects, *thoraco-abdominoschisis* that have been attributed to amniotic bands that entangle and amputate fetal parts. The estimated prevalence is 1 in 1200 to 15,000 live births^[2-4], 178 in 10,000 miscarriages^[5] affecting both sexes equally. There is no family predisposition or risk of recurrence. There is a significant predilection for upper extremities particularly distal limbs. We report this case with the aim of highlighting its existence in this region and of academic interest.

CASE REPORT

A 2 months old male baby weighing 4 kgs was scheduled for elective surgery for release of constriction ring affecting limbs with Z-plasty under general anaesthesia. He was a full term baby delivered vaginally in hospital at 38 weeks of gestation with no maternal complications. Mother admits no ultrasound scan was performed during the antenatal period. Clinical examination revealed a constriction rings 2 cms above right ankle and 2 cms proximal to left wrist in total circumference associated with syndactyly and high arched palate. Figure 1-3.

Systemic examination was within normal limits. Routine laboratory investigations: Complete hemogram, electrolytes and urine analysis were normal. Chest x-ray (PA view), ECG, Ultrasound abdomen and pelvis and 2D echocardiography were normal. X-ray of limbs showed soft tissue constriction without the involvement of the bones. Colour Doppler study of the limbs revealed normal blood flow in all the vessels and at constriction site.

Airway assessment revealed adequate mouth opening with the high arched palate. The baby was nil by mouth for 4 hrs. Inside operation theatre, standard monitors like 5 lead ECG, NIBP cuff, pulse oximetry were attached, and vital parameters were recorded which were as follows: pulse rate -148/min, NIBP-92/62mmhg, SpO₂ -100% on room air. An intravenous access was made with the 24G cannula and Isolyte-P started using paediatric burette. Preoxygenation was done with 100% oxygen for 3 mins. Premedicated with Inj. Glycopyrrolate 0.01mg/kg, Inj. Midazolam 0.02mg/kg, Inj. Fentanyl

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Figure 1. A circumferential band above right ankle.

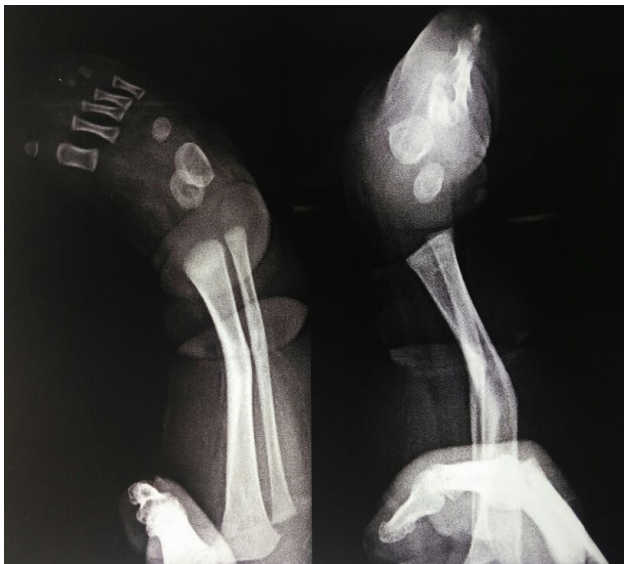


Figure 2. X-ray lateral and AP view of right leg with foot.

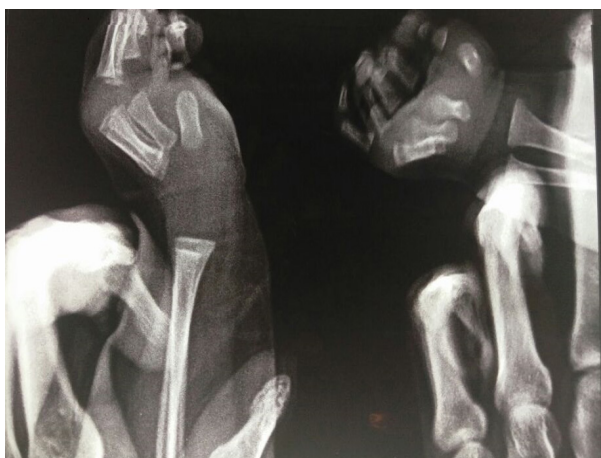


Figure 3. X-ray lateral and AP view of left upper limb with constriction band above wrist.

2mcg/kg followed by induction with Inj. Propofol 2mg/kg and Inj. Atracurium 0.5mg/kg after check ventilation. Direct laryngoscopy was done and airway secured with 3.0 mm ID uncuffed endotracheal tube (Cormack Lehane Grade 2, type b) and was confirmed by bilateral air entry and EtCO₂, the tube was fixed at 9 cms. Anaesthesia maintained with 50% oxygen + 50% nitrous oxide, Sevoflurane, Inj. Atracurium 0.1mg/kg and positive pressure ventilation was done. Heat conservation was made with warming blanket, warm IV fluids and maintaining ambient room temperature. Antibiotic was given prior to skin incision. Surgery continued for one and half hour. Inj. Paracetamol 10mg/kg was given slow ivi. The patient was reversed with Inj. Neostigmine 0.05mg/kg and Inj. Glycopyrrolate 0.01mg/kg. Extubation was done after clearing oral secretions. Intraoperative and post-operative periods were uneventful. The baby was discharged after 3 days.

DISCUSSION

Amniotic constriction bands are fibrous strands of the amniotic sac that entangle fetal parts and disfigure arms, legs, fingers, or toes. Though the etiopathogenesis is unknown, two theories have been proposed “extrinsic model” and the “intrinsic model”. In 1930 the intrinsic model was proposed by Streeter^[6] and suggests that the fibrous bands and the anomalies have a common origin, caused by a perturbation of developing germinal disc of the early embryo. In 1965, the Torpin’s model of “extrinsic theory”^[7], suggested that the birth defects are caused by the action of the fibrous amniotic bands with the sequence rupture of the amnion, followed by loss of amniotic fluid and extrusion of all or parts of the fetus into the chorionic cavity which comes in contact with ‘sticky’ mesoderm on the chorionic surface of the amnion leading to entanglement of the fetal parts and skin abrasions. Entanglement of the fetal parts causes constriction rings and amputations, whereas skin abrasions can lead to disruption defects, such as cephaloceles. The fetus limbs, while trapped there are subjected to vascular compression and then necrosis^[8-11].

Beside ABS etiopathogenesis, risk factors are poorly known. However, there are some reports of amniotic band syndrome associated with Ehler-Danlossyndrome^[12], osteogenesis imperfecta^[13], and congenital epidermolysis bullosa^[14,15]. Few studies showed association between ABS and mother’s age (especially primiparas of age less than 25 years)^[10,15], prematurity^[16], abdominal trauma^[15,18], abortion^[17], intrauterine contraception^[18], amniocentesis^[17-21], malformations of the uterus^[15], some drugs like ergotamine^[22], acetaminophen^[10] with no firm evidence.

Amniotic band syndrome has very complex clinical findings. Early amniotic rupture, during the first 45 days, leads to the

most severe craniofacial, limb body wall defect and visceral malformations^[4]. Every part of the fetal body may be damaged, but most often upper extremities are affected where minor defects such as constriction rings or digit amputations^[23] are seen. Other abnormalities like constriction rings of the soft tissue accompanied by distal edema, shortening of the limb or intrauterine limb amputation, amputation of the digits (most often II, III and IV finger) and toes, syndactyly, polydactyly, hypoplasia of the digits, clubfoot, pseudoarthrosis, peripheral nerve palsy^[2,22] and oligohydramnios causes deformities such as metatarsovarus, scoliosis^[4] or hip dislocation^[2]. Fibrous strands compress the fetal head or face, different craniofacial disturbances can appear- asymmetric face clefts, orbital defects, corneal abnormalities, central nervous system malformations, calvaria defect. Other anomalies like chest wall defect with heart extrophy^[24], gastroschisis, small intestinal atresia, terminal transverse limb reduction defects, microtia, clubfoot^[25] and Septo-optic dysplasia^[26].

Another important association with ABS is the presence of cleft lip with or without palate (CLP) in a few patients. Mutations of genes involved in cleft lip and cleft palate are known to be directly related to genes involved in the amniotic band syndrome. It is important to note that recently identified cleft lip and palate genes have oral or facial fibrous bands as single component finding which includes Van der Woude and popliteal pterygia syndrome, caused by mutations in IRF6^[27,28] and Hay-Wells Syndrome, caused by mutations in p63^[29] which is associated with limb anomalies^[30]. There are reports of patients with Amniotic band syndrome and Cleft lip and palate, who have additional anomalies, such as supernumerary left nipple, polydactyly, vertebral segmentation defects, imperforate anus, renal agenesis, and a skin papilla. Study on mice by Donnai and Winter (1989) concluded that these cases represented the human homolog of a gene whose mutation is due to similar disorders (Ds). It is a gain-of-function mutation explained through a two-hit mechanism^[31]. In our case, we encountered high arched palate in association with ABS and syndactyly.

Amniotic band syndrome is typically diagnosed at or soon after birth based upon characteristic physical findings. In some cases, the condition may be suspected prenatally, Latest ultrasound techniques- three dimensional and four-dimensional ultrasound contribute to more sensitive prenatal diagnostics of ABS, and in complicated cases, fetal MRI can be helpful^[3].

Management includes surgical correction either one-stage or two-stage procedure depending upon the extent of the associated anomalies. In a study conducted by Patterson^[32] where 52 patients of congenital constriction rings had reported only 2 below knee amputations in addition to other musculoskeletal defects. In a study conducted by Greene^[33] one-stage release for

circumferential congenital constriction bands was performed in four extremities. In 1983 Zych^[34] et al., reported a case of ABS with pseudarthrosis and impending gangrene of leg, which was salvaged with multiple Z-plasty. Mistry^[35] et al., in 2015 reported a case of congenital bands in upper and lower limbs associated with cleft lip and palate which was salvaged with multiple Z-plasty and staged cleft lip and palate repair. In our case, the baby presented to us at the age of 2 months with the high arched palate and there were no threatened complications like gangrenous changes, bony deformity or loss of motor or sensory function and it was treated in a single stage by multiple Z-plasty. The high arched palate did not pose any airway risk to the patient during the perioperative or postoperative period.

It is wise to consider ABS patient as difficult airway due to the abnormalities in addition to normal paediatric airway anatomy and physiology. In our case, it was a difficult intubation as it required external manipulation.

CONCLUSION

Every case of ABS is unique with a constellation of anomalies and needs to be assessed individually. No two cases have an identical presentation. Because of its complexity, the treatment and follow-up of these neonates requires a team of specialists depending upon the special needs of each patient. A well planned surgical treatment can produce excellent results for complete restoration of the form and function of the patient.

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