Education-Family Physician Corner

A Trisomy 21 Neonate with CMV Infection Mimicking Acute Myeloid Leukemia Fab-M5

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Hyperbilirubinemia could be a part of Down syndrome; some will develop Transient Abnormal Myelopoiesis (TAM), which present with hepatosplenomegaly. TORCH screening is a group of blood tests which include testing for congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) infection, toxoplasma, rubella, cytomegalovirus, and herpes simplex virus.

We present a case of Down syndrome who had symmetrical intrauterine growth retardation, intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR), anemia, leukocytosis, thrombocytopenia, hepatosplenomegaly and blast cells in the peripheral smear. A diagnosis of TAM was confirmed initially. TAM had resolved spontaneously in a month and the patient developed direct hyperbilirubinemia and progressive hepatosplenomegaly with elevated liver enzymes and persistent thrombocytopenia with no blast cells. A diagnosis of cCMV infection was confirmed. Congenital infection in Down syndrome may mimic leukemia. It is important for cCMV to be diagnosed and treated early to avoid the complications.

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