The Acrocallosal Syndrome in A Neonate With Further Widening of Phenotypic Expression


Abstract

The presentation of the typical characteristics of the acrocallosal syndrome (ACLS) are hypoplasia/agenesis of corpus callosum, moderate to severe mental retardation, characteristic craniofacial abnormalities, distinctive digital malformation, and growth retardation in a neonate.

An Indian neonate presented on day 1 of life (youngest in the literature to be reported) with combination of abnormalities consistent with the acrocallosal syndrome and some additional findings. The baby, born to non-consanguineous, healthy parents, presented with macrocephaly, prominent forehead, hypertelorism, polydactyly of the hands and feet, duplication of hallux, hypotonia, recurrent cyanotic episodes, rib anomalies, dextro-positioning of heart, and delayed fall of umbilical cord.

As the mode of inheritance of ACLS is autosomal recessive, the risk of recurrence is 25%. Genetic counselling is of prime importance, Polydactyly, and central nervous system malformations can be detected by ultrasonography in the second trimester, but due to variability of presentation, prenatal diagnosis may not always be possible.

Keywords: Acrocallosal syndrome (ACLS); Agenesis of corpus callosum; polydactyly

Introduction

The acrocallosal syndrome (ACLS) was first described by Schinzel (1). ACLS is a rare genetic disorder. The few typical characteristics of ACLS are hypoplasia/agenesis of corpus callosum, moderate to severe mental retardation, characteristic craniofacial abnormalities, distinctive digital malformation, and growth retardation. However, symptoms and physical findings in ACLS may be quite variable. Although autosomal recessive inheritance has been suggested, ACLS often appears to occur sporadically (2).

Case report

A full term female vigorous newborn, delivered vaginally with meconium stained liquor as a result of non-consanguineous marriage (maternal age 25 years and paternal age 28 years) presented to us on day 1 of life with a history of not sucking well, respiratory difficulty, and recurrent cyanosis. She was the product of third pregnancy, the first being a spontaneous abortion at 8 weeks of gestation and second being a healthy term male baby. Birth weight was 3.2 kg (50th centile) and length was 48 cm (10th-25th centile) with a head circumference of 36 cm (50th-
Table 1. Features of Acrocallosal Syndrome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>In our case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Macrocephaly</td>
<td>Schinzel and Schmid(1980) (3)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hypertelorism and frontal bossing</td>
<td>Schinzel (1988) (7)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Optic atrophy</td>
<td>Smith (8)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hallux duplication</td>
<td>Schinzel and Schmid (1980) (3)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pre and Post axial Polydactyly of toes and fingers</td>
<td>Schinzel (1988) (7), Smith (8)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Cerebellar hypoplasia</td>
<td>Hendrik et al (1990) (8)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cyanotic spells</td>
<td>Yuksel M et al (1990) (9)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hypotonia</td>
<td>Yuksel M et al (1990) (9)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dextro position of heart</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Delayed fall of cord</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Rib anomalies</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ present - absent
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Discussion

Acrocallosal syndrome is a rare genetic disorder first described by Schizel in a four-year-old boy. The pattern of multiple congenital anomalies found in ACLS include typical facial features, agenesis of corpus callosum, bilateral duplication of halluces, duplication of thumb, umbilical hernia, hypotonia, seizures, and severe motor and mental retardation. In view of the clinical variability and the fact that facial dysmorphism is not always characteristic, the diagnosis of ACLS may sometimes be difficult and subject to debate. Courtens et al (1997) laid down the minimal diagnostic criteria for this condition (11). These are: 1. Total or partial absence of corpus callosum; 2. Minor craniofacial anomalies (prominent forehead, hypertelorism, short nose with antverted nostrils, large anterior fontanel; 3. Moderate to severe psychomotor retardation (with hypotonia); and 4. Polydactyly.

The presence of 3 out of 4 criteria together with other associated findings could lead one to suspect the diagnosis of ACLS. Our case had all the features typical of ACLS. Phenotypic expression of ACLS can be further widened with inclusion of dextroposition of heart, rib anomalies, and delayed fall of umbilical cord (Table 1) as these have not been reported in the literature to date.

There are other conditions with midline abnormalities and Polydactyly or other digital anomalies. These include Greig cephalopolysyndactyly, oral facial-digital syndrome type 2, Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome, and Rubenstein Tyabi syndrome. These conditions can be excluded as they usually exhibit other characteristic features, which allow easy differentiation from ACLS. As the mode of inheritance of ACLS is autosomal recessive, the risk of recurrence is 25%. Genetic counselling is of prime importance, Polydactyly, and central nervous system malformations can be detected by ultrasonography in the second trimester, but due to variability of presentation, prenatal diagnosis may not always be possible. The homozygous p.N1060S missense mutation in a highly conserved residue in KIF7(15q26.1), a regulator of ciliary Hedgehog signaling that has been recently found to be the cause of Joubert syndrome, fetal hydrolethalus, and acrocallosal syndromes(12). The mutation most likely influences the early development of midline structures during embryogenesis.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Author contributions

Dr Ravish Singhal: Found the case, doing complete examination & diagnosis
Dr Sadhbavna Pandit, Ashok Saini, Paramjit Singh, Neeraj Dhawan: Critical review of the case

Fig 1. Downslanting & hyperteloric eyes

Fig 2. Right & left hand post axial polydactyly
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Fig 3. Duplicated hallus with post axial polydactyly

Fig 4. Right foot with seven phalanges polydactyly

Fig 5. Widened right 2nd intercostal space

Fig 6. ECHO showing ASD left to right shunt

Fig 7. Coronal MRI showing corpus callosum agenesis

Fig 8. Axial CT scan showing parallel ventricles
References


