

Picture Story

Neonatal purpura fulminans

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This 5 day old baby was admitted to hospital with multiple gangrenous lesions on feet, thighs and buttocks of 2 days duration. The lesions spread over the next few days to involve the scrotum, abdomen and upper limbs. Despite repeated transfusions of fresh frozen plasma the baby died after 2 weeks. There was consanguinity. The protein C level was 0.37 mg/l (normal 1.77-3.11 mg/l)¹.

Neonatal purpura fulminans is a genetic disorder related to the absence of protein C in blood². Highly purified protein C concentrates have been used successfully in the neonatal purpura fulminans³. Unfortunately, protein C concentrates are not available in Sri Lanka.

References

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Photographed with a NIKON FN10 camera with a synchronised flash using a shutter speed of 1/125 secorids and an aperture (f) of 5.6.

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