

**Picture Story**

## **Congenital hypothyroidism**

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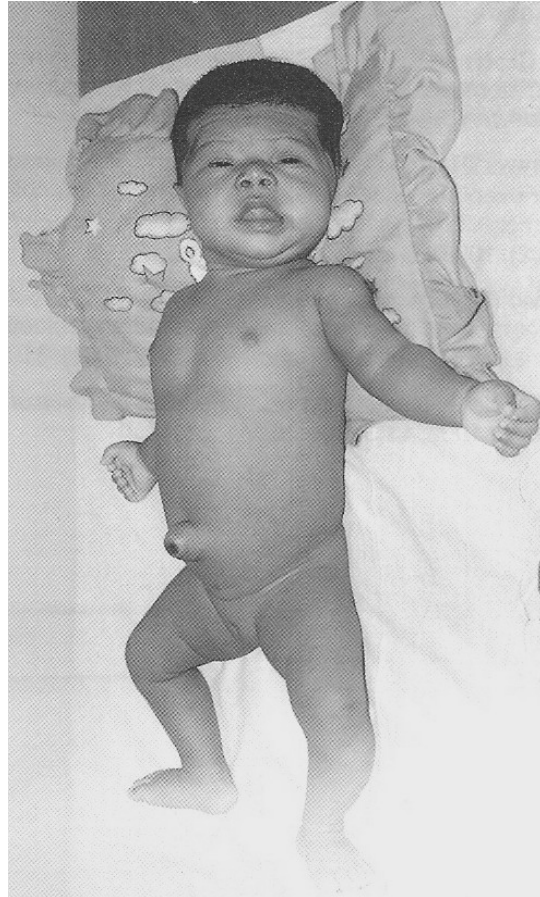
This five month old child was brought from Trincomalee on 8th February 2001 for poor feeding and failure to gain weight. She was the second child of non-consanguineous parents born on 18th October 2000, female, normal delivery, birth weight 3.38kg. The older child was normal. The father, a postmaster, had consulted many doctors of his neighbouring districts.

On examination she weighed 4.7kg (at five months) was inactive, lethargic with poor head control. She had coarse facies, a hoarse voice, dry skin, an umbilical hernia (Figure 1). She was constipated. A clinical diagnosis of hypothyroidism was made. This was supported by TSH 112mIU/L (normal for age 0.7 - 6.4mIU/L) T4 0.01ng/dl (normal for age 0.9 - 2.6ng/dl) Bone age of a new born (at age five months) Hb 8.9g/dl ECG was normal.

She was admitted to Durdans Hospital for initiating therapy with thyroxin, starting with a small dose. She was discharged on 25ug daily with instruction to constant supervision, measurement of TSH and life long thyroid hormone replacement.

She was reviewed on 16th March 2001. She weighed 5.40kg; skin was smooth.

Since this child was recognized late her future mental development is uncertain but the physical development should be good.



**Figure 1** Hypothyroid baby aged five months

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