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Paired Unilateral Scapular Pits in a Neonate

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Abstract:

Congenital skin pits have been observed as a sporadic anatomic variant as well as in association with trauma, maternal infection, genetic syndromes, and metabolic disorders. We present a case of a neonate with paired unilateral scapular pits, which to our knowledge has not yet been reported. Although this is favored to be a benign finding in an otherwise healthy baby, we review important considerations in the clinical evaluation of a neonate with congenital skin pitting.

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Main Text:

Introduction:

Skin pits, or skin dimples, are cutaneous depressions most commonly found on the cheeks or chin. They are thought to arise secondary to early fixation of skin with insufficient formation of subcutaneous tissue.¹ Skin pits may be seen in association with metabolic abnormalities, trauma, and maternal infection. We present a case of non-syndromic, paired unilateral scapular pits in a neonate.

Case Report:

Dermatology was consulted to evaluate a one-day-old otherwise healthy female neonate for two indentations on the right posterior shoulder (Figure 1). The patient was born via non-traumatic vaginal delivery at 37 weeks 1 day following an uncomplicated pregnancy. The patient was otherwise healthy with normal growth parameters. Clinical examination of the infant's skin revealed two skin-colored depressions, approximately 2-3 mm in width and spaced nearly 2 cm apart overlying the right posterior shoulder. Full body skin examination was also notable for dermal melanocytosis. There was no known family history of similar pitting. The mother had an uncomplicated pregnancy course with no history of intrauterine infections. Amniocentesis was not performed during pregnancy. An ultrasound was performed which was negative for a fistulous tract or fluid collection. Given the normal ultrasound findings and the otherwise unremarkable physical examination, the pits were favored to be a benign anatomic variant. The patient continued to develop normally, and the skin lesions were unchanged at the two-month follow-up visit (Figure 2).

Discussion:

We present a case of paired unilateral scapular pits in a neonate. Prior case studies have explored possible associations between skin pitting and maternal infection, invasive testing, and metabolic disorders. A case series of five infants with congenital rubella noted dimples in the patellar and iliac spine regions.² Amniocentesis has been associated with skin pitting of the thighs, abdomen, and back.^{3,4} Tibial dimples have been noted in a patient with hypophosphatasia, an inborn error of metabolism.⁵

In this case, there was no history of intrauterine infection, mechanical trauma, or family history of similar findings and the patient was otherwise developing normally, thus an idiopathic benign anatomic variant was favored. Nevertheless, it is important for clinicians to be aware of associations and have a framework for additional clinical inquiry and work-up should a patient present with such cutaneous findings. A thorough clinical history should be obtained including intrauterine infection, invasive procedures resulting in mechanical trauma, metabolic derangements, and the use of ultrasound for further investigation may be indicated.

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Figure 1 Paired unilateral scapular pits on the right posterior shoulder in a one-day old neonate

Figure 2 Paired unilateral scapular pits at two months old



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PDE_15125_Figure 2.JPG