Reviewer's report

Title: A Neonatal Presentation Of Factor V Deficiency: A Case Report

Version: Date: 23 August 2006

Reviewer: ANIL PATHARE

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General

Congenital Factor V deficiency is a rare bleeding disorder and severe forms [homozygous] can and do present in the neonatal period, mainly with skin or mucocutaneous bleeding. The case described by Amol Chingale and associates represents a patient with severe clinical phenotype that needed early prophylaxis. This is amply depicted in the clinical history [in hindsight] with the baby developing intramuscular hematoma after receiving IM 1 mg Vitamin K injection, bleeding from umbilical stump on day 3 and day 15, bleeding from left nipple on day 6 and twice later between days 6-13; and finally with multiple intracerebral bleeds in the right frontal and parieto-occipital lobes at week 5. The only novel aspect about this case is the early presentation of bleeding from left nipple in the neonatal period.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. Page 2, Para 2 - Abstract: The subsection of 'case presentation' is details that are again repeated in the Case presentation section of the main text. This needs to be completely rewritten making it concise, bearing in mind to mention only few salient features to avoid repetition as much as possible later on in the text.
2. Page 3, Para 1 – Background: line 3/4 – Omit 'in the coagulation system' as it is superfluous.
3. Page 3, Para 1 – Background: line 11 – 'It heralded……..haemorrhage' This needs to be rephrased as in actual sense it did not herald the bleed.
4. Page 6, last para – Conclusions: line 7 – 'Early recognition ….bleeding.' This is quite to the contrary in the present circumstances. Actually, the patient presented with multiple skin bleeds, early diagnosis was made, but instead the child only received oral tranexamic acid. Please rephrase the sentence to indicate the dilemma and uncertainty of bleeding manifestations under the given circumstances.
5. Page 7, Para 2, Line 10 : 'This is because of the fact……..fluid overload' In addition one must mention the fact of the short half life of factor V that is deficient and is being provided by FFP infusions to arrest bleeding under the given circumstances. This is the reason that necessitates frequent transfusions of FFP in factor V deficient patients who bleed.
6. Page 7, Para 4, Line 3 : 'Various strategies……..Page 8 first para….can also be considered' This is unwarranted and should be deleted as it does not discuss any aspect pertaining to the current case.
Page 8, Para 2, Line 1 : As severe factor……..cannot be delineated' Here the authors need to highlight and emphasize the fact that it is sometimes difficult to predict the clinical course even after making the correct diagnosis early. Frequent and multiple presentations may possibly point to such a course of events.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests