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**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF  
 ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)**

Article DOI:10.21474/IJAR01/5464  
 DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/5464>



### RESEARCH ARTICLE

#### KASABACH MERRITT SYNDROME - A PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY IN GIANT HAEMANGIOMA.

**Dr.Gomathi Vadivelu<sup>1</sup> MS MCh, Dr.Rohith gopinath<sup>2</sup> MS MCh(Resident) and Dr.J.Muthukumar<sup>3</sup> MBBS  
 DLO MS MCh.**

1. Assistant Professor, Dept of Paediatric Surgery, Institute of child health ,Egmore, Chennai.
2. MCh Resident, Dept of Paediatric Surgery, Institute of child health ,Egmore, Chennai.
3. Professor, HOD, Dept of Paediatric Surgery, Institute of child health ,Egmore, Chennai.

#### Manuscript Info

##### Manuscript History

Received: 18 July 2017  
 Final Accepted: 20 August 2017  
 Published: September 2017

##### Key words:-

Giant  
 haemangioma,prothrombintime,partialth  
 romboplastintime,platelet trapping.

#### Abstract

KASABACH-MERRITT phenomenon has been reported only in 200 cases worldwide since 1940. It has 20% to 30% mortality due to platelet trapping , coagulopathy and haemorrhage in brain, pleura & peritoneum. We have effectively treated with steroids and alpha interferon and prevented mortality. Heparin stimulates tumour growth and worsens thrombocytopenia. Our cases were evaluated with CBC, PT, Aptt, Ultra sonogram &MRI. Skin biopsy or liver biopsy were avoided to prevent torrential bleed.

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#### Introduction:-

Children presenting with large hemangioma in skin, liver and gastrointestinal tract must be evaluated for high output congestive cardiac failure. Anemia, thrombocytopenia and hepatomegaly are the classical triad seen in Kasabach-merritt syndrome. Common sites of hemangioma are face, chest and abdomen.

Our cases presented in early infancy with skin lesion in perineum , gluteal region and low grade fever. On examination child activity was good, no petechiae seen. Hemoglobin was 6.4gm%, platelets-7000 lakhs/cumm Total WBC-8590, PT- NORMAL, Aptt –normal, blood enteric culture was negative. Ultra sonogram of liver and brain were normal.

DAY	TC counts/cumm	PLATELETS Lakhs/cumm	Hb mg/dl
ONE	13000	5000	7
THREE	10250	20000	9
FIVE	5800	7000	6.2
SEVEN	10,800	20000	9
NINE	9000	20000	11
ELEVEN	5770	41000	12
FIFTEEN	8100	2,00,000	11

Clinical picture of lesions are shown below before and after treatment respectively.

**Corresponding Author:-Gomathi Vadivelu.**

Address:-Dept of Paediatric Surgery, Institute of child health ,Egmore, Chennai.



MRI of the gluteal hemangioma



Before treatment



After treatment

**FIG-4:-** Baby was started on Intravenous steroid and oral propranolol for first three days and blood transfusion on alternate days for one week

**After** treatment the lesion subsided completely. Children are followed up for complete regression.

#### **Discussion:-**

Endothelial defects cause platelet activation and fibrin formation leading onto platelet trapping and thrombocytopenia. 50% of Kasabach-merritt phenomenon is treated with steroids and propranolol. Alpha interferon and anti-angiogenic drugs as angiostatin and endostatin are used as second line of defence. 589 nm pulsed laser can be used in future for embolisation. Fibrinolytic agents as tranexmic acid can be used to prevent platelet trapping. VINCRISTINE 1-1.5mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly once can be given if lesion is intractable. AVOID heparin as it promotes angiogenesis and aggravates thrombocytopenia.

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