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RESEARCH ARTICLE

RAPIDLY INVOLUTING CONGENITAL HEMANGIOMA SIMULATING CONGENITAL SARCOMA

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Abstract

Rapidly involuting congenital hemangioma is a rare vascular tumor that generally has a good prognosis. We report the case of a newborn boy with a left temporal vascular lesion. Ulceration and bleeding are rarely reported in rapidly involuting congenital hemangioma. We describe a case of a newborn boy who presented with rapidly involuting congenital hemangioma complicated by ulceration and bleeding. Suggesting diagnosis of congenital sarcoma which was ruled out by skin biopsy.

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Introduction:-

The International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies classifies vascular anomalies into two main categories: vascular tumors and vascular malformations (1).

Benign vascular tumors known as congenital hemangiomas reach their maximum size at birth and do not undergo accelerated postnatal growth. These tumors can be further classified into three subgroups: rapidly involuting congenital hemangioma (RICH), noninvoluting congenital hemangioma (NICH), and partially involuting congenital hemangioma (PICH) (1).

Ulceration and bleeding are rarely reported in rapidly involuting congenital hemangioma. We describe a newborn boy who presented with RICH complicated by ulceration.

Case Report:

A full-term newborn boy presented at birth with a large violaceous tumour surrounded by a pale greyish peripheral halo on the left temporal area (Figure 1A). The evolution was marked at the age of 01 month by a rapid increase in volume with a bleeding episode (Figure 1B) for which he was referred to our institution for management.

Magnetic resonance imaging revealed a heterogeneous, hypervascularized soft-tissue mass in the left parieto-temporal region, with a hemorrhagic component and foci of necrosis (Figure 3A, B). Considering the suspicious findings on imaging, a skin biopsy was performed to rule out a malignant process.

Results of cutaneous biopsy eliminated a malignant process and were consistent with a benign vascular tumor with lobular proliferation and large ectatic veins suggesting a diagnosis of CH (Figure 4).

We opted for a therapeutic approach of abstention, administering a hemostatic ointment with alginate dressing to the newborn. Close monitoring was implemented to support the parents and provide reassurance.

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At the age of 7 months, there was nearly complete resolution of the lesion leaving a redundant skin (Figure 2).

Discussion:-

RICH (Rapidly Involuting Congenital Hemangioma) is a unique type of congenital hemangioma that originates in utero, experiencing rapid growth during pregnancy and exhibiting swift postnatal involution within the infant's first year of life (2). Clinically they appear as solitary raised violaceous tumours with a rounded shape located on the head or near a joint. The diagnosis is clinical and the follow-up confirms it (2). Infantile fibrosarcomas can present with comparable clinical and radiological characteristics. Therefore, if there is any uncertainty, it is advisable to conduct a biopsy to confirm the diagnosis (3). The histological appearance of congenital hemangioma is distinguished by relatively small lobules of capillaries enveloped by fibrous tissue. Endothelial cells in congenital hemangioma display a lack of positivity for GLUT1 immunostaining (4).

Commonly, a wait-and-see approach is advised. Nonetheless, certain complications like heart failure, thrombocytopenia, bleeding, and ulceration have been documented, prompting the use of embolization and other interventions (5). In our case, the patient was closely monitored, and the tumor exhibited swift involution.

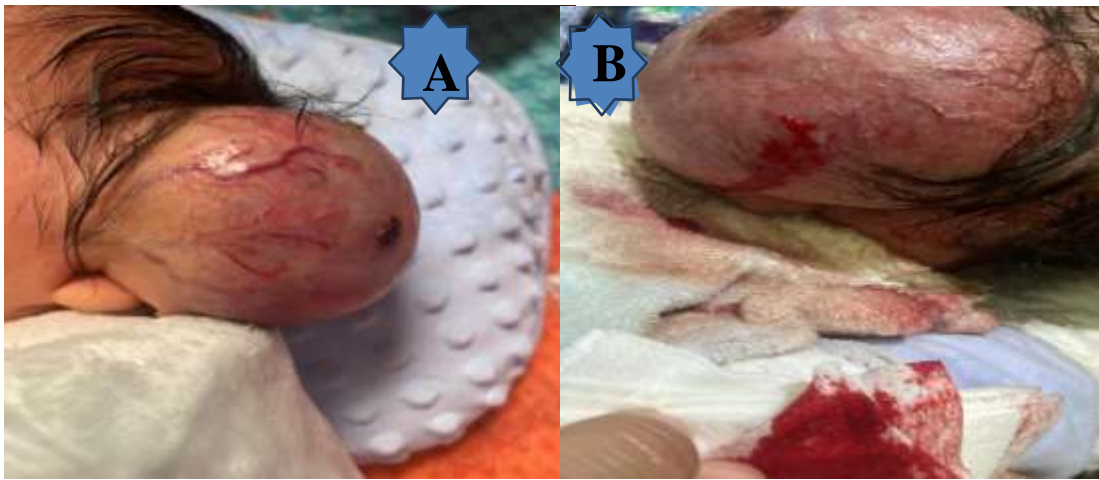


Figure 1:- A, Exophytic violaceous tumor with telangiectasia and central ulceration, at birth. B, Evolution at 1 month age.



Figure 2:- At the age of 7 months, there was nearly complete resolution of the lesion leaving a redundant skin.

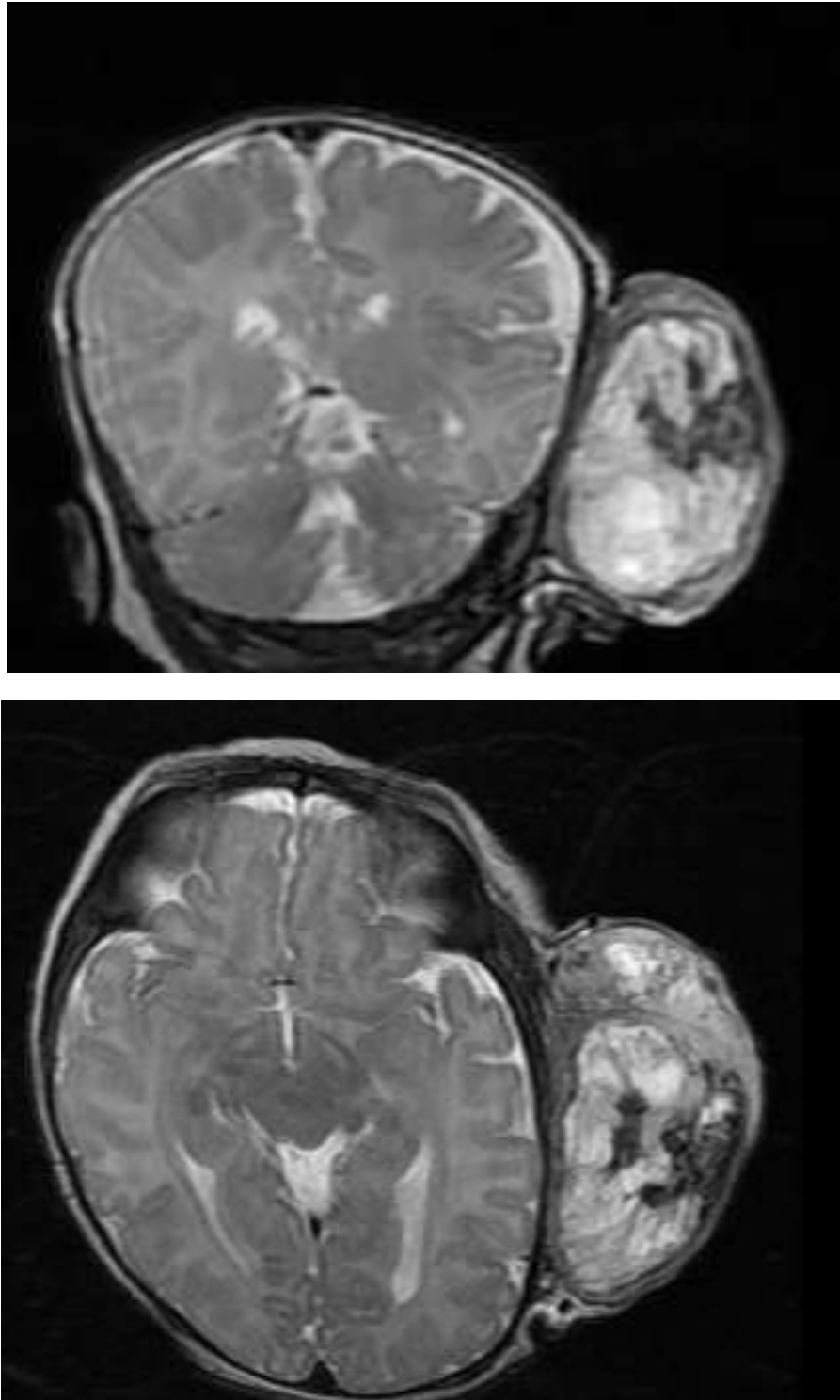


Figure 3:- A-tissue processing in enhanced liquid hypersignal. B-Hemorrhagic component (arrow).

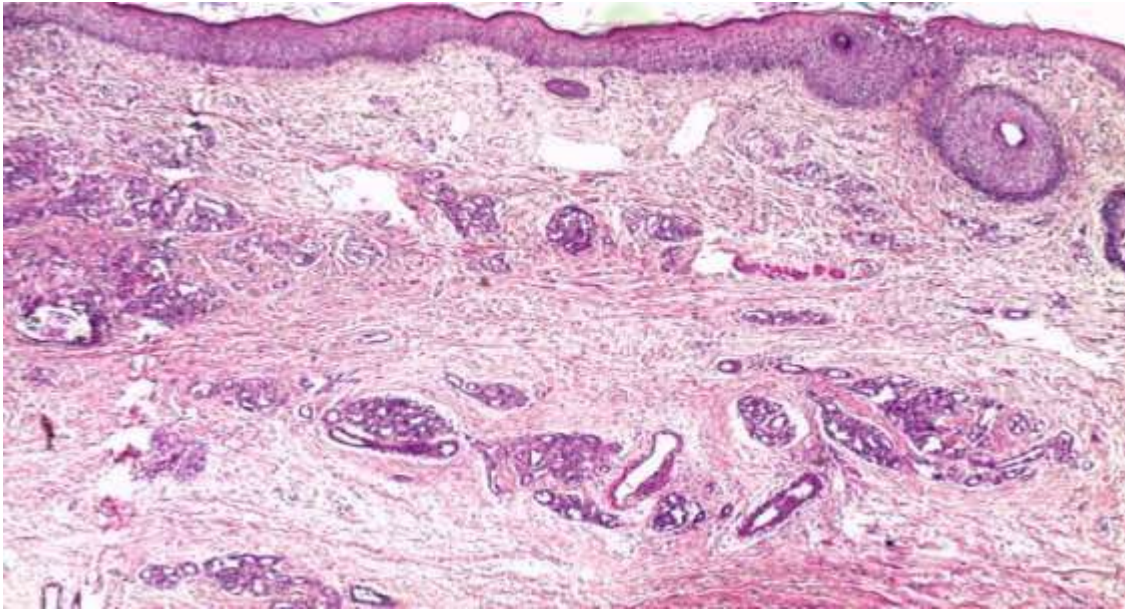


Figure4:-Lobulatedvascular proliferationofthederms, moreextensive indepth, madeupofjuxtaposed capillary vessels with a few vessels with thicker walls.

Conclusion:-

While it is ararecomplication, neonateswithulceratedcongenitalhemangiomas(CH) face apotentialriskofsevere hemorrhaging. Close clinical monitoring is strongly advised for cases of CH with ulceration, even when the ulceration is small.

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