

# Neonatal Purpura Fulminans

Sharma D<sup>1</sup>, Yadav J<sup>2</sup>

## The Case

A preterm baby of 32 weeks gestation, weight 1.5 kg was admitted for respiratory difficulty. At age of 3 days baby had skin necrosis of both lower limbs and upper limb with disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) and *Klebsiella* septicaemia. Baby had deranged blood coagulation profile. The infant died at age of five days due to multi-organ system failure despite aggressive neonatal intensive care support.

Neonatal purpura fulminans is a rare, life-threatening condition of dermal microvascular thrombosis associated with DIC and perivascular hemorrhage in the newborn period associated with high morbidity and mortality<sup>1</sup>. Gram negative organisms and Staphylococcus species are the most common causes of the acute infectious type<sup>2</sup>. It may be congenital, as a result of protein C and S deficiency, or acquired due to severe infection. It is characterized by the rapid spread of symmetrical, bluish-black hemorrhages into the skin, affecting mainly the extensor surfaces of the extremities and showing a tendency to deep necrosis and the formation of sero-sanguineous bullae. The haemorrhagic areas are well defined and are surrounded by oedema. These lesions are accompanied by a high fever and intense systemic symptoms<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Deepak Sharma, <sup>2</sup>Dr. Jaivinder Yadav. Both from the department of Paediatrics, Pt.B.D.S PGIMS Rohtak, Haryana, India

## Address for correspondence

Dr. Deepak Sharma  
E-mail: dr.deepak.rohtak@gmail.com

## How to cite

Sharma D, Yadav J. Neonatal Purpura Fulminans. J Nepal Paediatr Soc 2014;34(1):80.

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3126/jnps.v34i1.8975>

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License.



Fig 1: Showing purpura fulminans on lower limbs



Fig 2: Showing purpura fulminans on lower limb and upper limbs

## References

1. Price VE, Ledingham DL, Krumpel A, Chan AK: Diagnosis and management of neonatal purpura fulminans. *Semin Fetal Neonatal Med* 2011;16:318–22
2. Gurses N, Ozkan A: Neonatal and childhood purpura fulminans: review of seven cases. *Cutis* 1988;41:361–63.
3. Heal F C, Kent G Purpura fulminans with afibrinogenaemia. *Can Med Assoc J* 1953;69(4):367-70.