

A Rare Case of Michelin Tire Baby Syndrome in a Newborn

Kamleshun Ramphul¹, Stephanie G. Mejias², Yogeshwaree Ramphul-Sicharam³

1. Pediatrics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine/Shanghai Xin Hua Hospital, Shanghai, CHN 2. Pediatrics, The University Iberoamericana Unibe School of Medicine/Robert Reid Cabral Children's Hospital, Santo Domingo, DOM 3. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital

✉ **Corresponding author:** Kamleshun Ramphul, adramphul@hotmail.com

Disclosures can be found in Additional Information at the end of the article

Abstract

Kunze-Riehm syndrome also known as Michelin tire baby syndrome (MTBS) is a rare genetic condition with a characteristic generalized folding of excess skin. The diagnosis is usually made based on clinical symptoms. There are approximately only 30 cases reported in the literature and some cases were associated with non-cutaneous anomalies as well. Herein, we report a case of MTBS in a five-day-old male of Iraqi origin.

Categories: Dermatology, Pediatrics

Keywords: kunze-riehm syndrome, michelin tire baby syndrome

Introduction

Kunze-Riehm syndrome also known as Michelin tire baby syndrome (MTBS) is a rare genetic condition that consists of a characteristic generalized folding of excess skin [1]. The diagnosis is usually made based on clinical symptoms. The condition can be isolated or there can be associated extracutaneous findings as well. The pathophysiology behind this condition is still not properly understood [2] and there are approximately only 30 cases reported in the literature, and in some cases, they were also associated with noncutaneous anomalies [3]. We report a case of MTBS in a five-day-old male of Iraqi origin.

Case Presentation

A five-day-old male child of Iraqi origin born from a non-consanguineous union was brought to the office for an initial complaint of generalized skin folds not regressing since birth. The pregnancy was uneventful and the mother was not compliant with prenatal care. The parents deny any family history of similar conditions. The birth weight was 2.8 kg and length 50 cm. On examination, it was observed that the child had multiple, bilaterally symmetrical, deep skin folds on the trunk as well as upper and lower extremities. Periorbital pitting edema was also detected (Figure 1).

Received 02/16/2018

Review began 02/20/2018

Review ended 02/20/2018

Published 02/24/2018

© Copyright 2018

Ramphul et al. This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License CC-BY 3.0., which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

How to cite this article

Ramphul K, Mejias S G, Ramphul-Sicharam Y (February 24, 2018) A Rare Case of Michelin Tire Baby Syndrome in a Newborn. Cureus 10(2): e2222. DOI 10.7759/cureus.2222



FIGURE 1: Newborn presenting with a complaint of generalized bilateral skin folding since birth, currently at day five of life in the picture

Bilateral periorbital edema was observed (red arrows) as well as generalized skin folds throughout the body (blue arrows).

No hypertrichosis or other cutaneous lesions were found. The patient did not have any organomegaly and the remaining systemic examination was unremarkable. Ultrasound of the abdomen and pelvis were normal as well. A diagnosis of MTBS was made. The parents refused a histopathologic examination of the skin. The child was scheduled for frequent visits to monitor the progress of the skin folds.

Discussion

MTBS is a rare condition characterized by generalized ring-shaped skin folds. It was first described by Ross in 1969 [4] and since then about 30 cases have been reported in the literature. The origin of the name comes from the physical resemblance of these patients to the mascot of a French tire company.

Some studies have suggested a familial predisposition to the condition while others suggested evidence of an autosomal dominant profile of the condition. A case of MTBS was even observed in four generations with three male-to-male transmissions noted [5]. The pathogenesis behind this condition is still not properly understood. Deletion of the short arm of chromosome 11 has been previously reported and also a paracentric inversion of the q arm of chromosome 7 [6].

Patients of MTBS usually present with multiple generalized circumferential folds. In some cases, they are not limited to cutaneous findings; several craniofacial anomalies, cleft lip palates, and hernias have been reported [7]. Certain patients also developed psychomotor retardation as well as skeletal anomalies.

In this case, the patient presented with multiple generalized skin folds and periorbital edema. No oral anomalies were found and the systemic examination was unremarkable. There was no family history of a similar condition in the family. A 'wait and see' approach was decided and over the next few days, the periorbital edema improved but the skin folds persisted. Due to the lack of proper facilities, a karyotype analysis could not be performed and the patient was scheduled for regular check-ups.

Conclusions

MTBS is a rare condition with multiple possible etiologies characterized by generalized skin folds. The pathogenesis is still not well understood and there can also be extracutaneous findings in some patients. The prognosis in most patients has been very positive.

Additional Information

Disclosures

Human subjects: Consent was obtained by all participants in this study. **Conflicts of interest:** In compliance with the ICMJE uniform disclosure form, all authors declare the following:

Payment/services info: All authors have declared that no financial support was received from any organization for the submitted work. **Financial relationships:** All authors have declared that they have no financial relationships at present or within the previous three years with any organizations that might have an interest in the submitted work. **Other relationships:** All authors have declared that there are no other relationships or activities that could appear to have influenced the submitted work.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr. Daa El-Eiqabi from Iraq who allowed us to write this rare and interesting case. We are also grateful for his help and support for making this case report possible.

References

1. Gardner EW, Miller HM, Lowney ED: Folded skin associated with underlying nevus lipomatosus. *Arch Dermatol.* 1979, 115:978–9. [10.1001/archderm.1979.04010080042021](https://doi.org/10.1001/archderm.1979.04010080042021)
2. Wallach D, Sorin M, Saurat JH: Generalized muscular nevus with the clinical appearance of a "Michelin tire baby" (Article in French). *Ann Dermatol Venerol.* 1980, 107:923–7.
3. Kharfi M, Zaraa I, Chaouechi S, et al.: Michelin tire syndrome: a report of two siblings . *Pediatr Dermatol.* 2005, 22:245–249. [10.1111/j.1525-1470.2005.22315.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1525-1470.2005.22315.x)
4. Ross CM: Generalized folded skin with an underlying lipomatous nevus . *Arch Dermatol.* 1969, 100:320–323. [10.1001/archderm.1969.01610270062014](https://doi.org/10.1001/archderm.1969.01610270062014)
5. Niikawa N, Ishikiriya S, Shikimani T, Opitz JM, Reynolds JF: The "Michelin tire baby" syndrome—an autosomal dominant trait. *Am J Med Genet.* 1985, 22:637–8. [10.1002/ajmg.1320220327](https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.1320220327)
6. Schnur RE, Herzberg AJ, Spinner N, et al.: Variability in the Michelin tire syndrome . *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 1993, 28:364–70. [10.1016/0190-9622\(93\)70056-Y](https://doi.org/10.1016/0190-9622(93)70056-Y)
7. Kunze J, Riehm H: A new genetic disorder: autosomal-dominant multiple benign ring-shaped skin creases. *Eur J Pediatr.* 1982, 138:301–303. [10.1007/BF00442501](https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00442501)