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## *Letters to the Editor*

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### **Early Hemorrhagic Disease of Newborn**

The recent case report entitled "Hemoperitoneum—a rare manifestation of early hemorrhagic disease of newborn"(1) was interesting. However, there are certain terminologies which require clarification. Three clinical patterns of vitamin K deficiency hemorrhage occur in infancy: early hamorrhagic disease of newborn (HDN), classic HDN and late hemorrhagic disease (*Table 1*)(2,3). Early HDN occurs within the first 24 hours of life, and is usually associated with maternal drug intake. Rare cases of idiopathic early HDN have also been reported(3,4). Though this hemorrhage responds well to vitamin K administration it is not possible, in all instances, to prevent it by vitamin K administration at birth. The neonate presented in the article(1) should

be classified as a case of classic HDN and not early HDN.

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### **Reply**

We agree that the terminology used for our reported case should have been Classic HDN rather than Early HDN(1). We had used the term, Early HDN since only two terms, Early and Late HDN are in common use(2). However, now the entity has certainly been classified as Early, Classic and Late HDN(3).

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**TABLE I—Vitamin K Deficiency Hemorrhagic Syndromes in Infancy**

Type	Age	Common bleeding sites	Cause	Prevention by vitaminK administration at birth	Comments
Early HDN	0-24 hours	Cephalohematoma Scalp monitor Intracranial Intrathoracic Intra-abdominal	Maternal drugs Warfarin Anticonvulsants Anti tuberculous Chemotherapy Idiopathic	Not in all instances	Frequently life-threatening. guidelines for safe management of high-risk pregnancies needed
Classic HDN	1-7 days	Gastrointestinal Skin Nasal Circumcision	Idiopathic Maternal drugs	Yes	Incidence increased in breastfed neonates and reduced by early formula feedings
Late hemorrhagic disease	1-3 months	Intracranial Skin Gastrointestinal	Idiopathic <i>Secondary</i> Diarrhea Malabsorption (cystic fibrosis, alpha-I antitrypsin deficiency, biliary atresia) Prolonged warfarin exposure	Probably yes No	Common causes of intracranial hemorrhage in breastfed infants 1-3 months of age; may be aggravated by antibiotic administration