Images in Clinical Practice

Sternal Malformation: Vascular Dysplasia Complex

A 18-month-old female child presented with capillary hemangioma on lower lip and chin with midline skin dimple on chest. The manubrium sterni was absent. A hollow space bulged out when the child cried (*Fig. 1*). The child was otherwise normal. Chest *X*-ray confirmed absence of manubrium sterni, widening of medial clavicular ends. Rest of the skeletal survey, laryngoscopy, ultrasonography of thorax and abdomen, echocardiography and other routine investigations were normal.

This combination of anomalies represent rare sternal malformation vascular dysplasia complex. The spectrum of defects in various combinations include midline ventral defects, supraumbilical raphe, micrognathia ophthalmic, brain and cardiac defects. Etiopathogenesis and inheritance are uncertain. Diagnostic evaluation for serous internal vascular and cardiac anomalies is necessary.

Early surgical repair of sternal defects is indicated even in asymptomatic child because it may render the major vessels and heart vulnerable to injury. Hemangiomas can be treated by standard management.

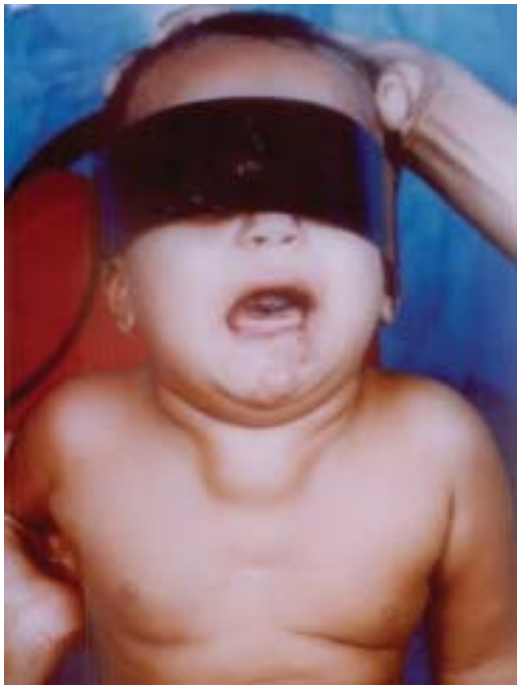

Fig. 1. Capillary hemangioma over lower lip and chin are seen. In this crying photograph, the soft tissue is seen to bulge over the area of absent manubrium sternum.

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