ABSTRACT BOOK ABSTRACTS



A new ERA for global Dermatology 10 - 15 JUNE 2019 MILAN, ITALY

PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

BIG TOENAIL IMPRINTING DURING FETAL LIFE: A POSSIBLE CAUSE OF CONGENITAL SKIN DIMPLES

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Background: Congenital skin dimples (SD) are little scar-like depressions that can be noted at birth or shortly thereafter on any part of the body surface. There are reports connecting SD to severe infections during pregnancy, particularly rubella, inborn metabolic errors or drug exposure. The formation of SD in otherwise healthy babies was recognised to be linked to amniocentesis performed in the second trimester of pregnancy; recently such traumatic lesions are less frequently observed thank to sophisticated ultrasonography techniques. Other types of dimples such as bi-acromial or sacral dimples, usually bilateral and adjacent to a bony structure, can be inherited as a single trait or related to genetic syndromes.

Observation: We observed two full-term infants born from uneventful pregnancies, a girl of 2 months and a boy of 3 months, presenting with congenital small depressed scars grouped on one thigh. No history of amniocentesis of other medical procedures was present, nor maternal infection or other factors that could have complicated the pregnancy. The lesions were not symmetric and were not in the acromial or sacral area. The infants were in good clinical health. We observed that the two neonates used to roll up in fetal position crossing their legs, with the first toenail border falling in correspondence to the area of the lesions; the major axis of these scar-like dimples was oriented in the same direction of the toenail. No sign of inflammation was present.

Key message: The presence of otherwise unexplained isolated scar-like SD in healthy infants could follow minor mechanical traumas during fetal life, such as, in this cases, the prolonged touch or friction with the nail onto an extremly fragile skin as the one of the fetus.





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