



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

## HERPES ZOSTER OPHTHALMICUS ON 3-YEAR-OLD BOY WITH VITAMIN D INSUFFICIENCY

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**Background:** Herpes zoster is a varicella zoster viral disease which is rarely found in immunocompetent children. The incidence in 0-5-year-old children occurs in 20 cases every 100,000 children each year. Vitamin D plays role in the incidence of cases of infection which relies on immune system, including varicella zoster virus reactivation. The aim of this report is to improve knowledge of herpes zoster found in children with vitamin D insufficiency.

**Observation:** A 3-year-old boy came complaining of his blisters around his right eye. The complaint was uttered two days before. Clear blisters appeared and spread around quickly. He also complained of pain and fever a day before seeing the doctor. Similar complaint had been experienced by his father when the patient was two weeks old. The dermatological test revealed clear clustered vesicles with erythematous base corresponding to a dermatome, regio periorbita dextra et frontalis dextra. Half areas covered with crusts. The supporting test indicated microcytic, hypochromic anemia and 20.8 ng/mL of 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)). The patient had been treated with symptomatic drugs, anti viral and vitamin D supplementation, as well as topical therapies. The patient did not complain of sequelae for the last 3 months.

**Key message:** The main risk factor of the infection is the child's exposure to varicella zoster virus on the first year of his life. The varicella infection may occur in subclinical manner, and therefore there were no symptoms noticed by the patient's relatives. The vitamin D deficiency showed that a decrease in the patient's immunity, leading to exposure to viral infection. We should be aware to this deficiency especially in developed and tropical countries.

