



# Birthmarks

## When to worry?

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# No relevant conflict of interest

- Advisory Board member for :
  - Pentrox
  - Johnson&Johnson
  - SanofiGenzyme
  - Galderma

# Outlines

- To discuss the most common birthmarks
- To discuss the natural course of these birthmarks
- To highlight red flags

# Birthmark : Definition

- Birthmarks are defined as:
- Persistent visible marks on the skin that are evident at birth
- However may appear or first noticed long after birth (delayed birthmark)

# Birthmarks

- Red
- Yellow
- Hypo or hyper pigmented
- Brown
- Blue

# Red Birth marks

# Case 1:

- Healthy newborn
- Red spots on glabella and upper eyelids

# Nevus Simplex

- An extremely common birthmark
- Pale pink to bright red macules and patches with indistinct border
- Classic locations: nape, glabella, upper eyelids
- The nose, upper lip, occipital or parietal scalp are relatively frequent sites of involvement
- The lower lip, upper back, and lumbosacral skin can also be affected



# Nevus Simplex : natural course

- Transient capillary malformation so they usually resolve within 1-2 years
- On the glabella may take several years
- On the nape around 50% resolve
- Pulsed dye laser in persistent cases

# When to worry?

- Usually not worrisome
- When prominent and persistent can be seen in some syndromes
- Usually the other signs and symptoms of associated syndrome are evident

Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome	A congenital overgrowth syndrome w/ major features of anterior abdominal wall defects, macroglossia, and gigantism	Autosomal dominant pattern w/ incomplete penetrance in 15% of patients. Most cases are sporadic.
Nova syndrome	Familial communicating hydrocephalus, posterior cerebellar agenesis, and mega cisterna magna	Autosomal dominant pattern w/ incomplete expression
NS w/odontodysplasia	Defects in dentin pulp, enamel, and dental follicle; failure of full eruption of affected teeth	Nonhereditary
Macrocephaly–capillary malformation syndrome	Facial and limb asymmetry, somatic overgrowth, syndactyly or polydactyly, and developmental delay	Unknown
Roberts-SC syndrome	Symmetric limb defects, craniofacial abnormalities, prenatal and postnatal growth	Autosomal recessive

# When to worry?

- If on the lumbosacral area and associated with other localized skin changes such as hypertrichosis, a dermal sinus or pit, lipoma, or deviated gluteal cleft :
- Rule out Occult dysraphism

# When to worry?

- If on the scalp and associated with a nodule, aplasia cutis, a tuft of hair :
- An underlying neural tube closure defect, should be ruled out

# Case 2

- Healthy newborn
- Red patch on left hemiface since birth

# Port Wine Stain (PWS)

- Well-demarcated color of port wine patches
- Present at birth
- 0.3 % of all newborns
- Mostly seen on face and neck
- Usually unilateral and segmental (~85 %)

# PWS

- Persistent through life
- May lighten over the first 3-6 months of life
- No proliferative phase in infancy
- Gradual darkening and thickening later in life

# When to worry?

- Facial PWS involving forehead including upper eyelid
- Hemifacial PWS
- Midline PWS
- Increased risk of Sturge Weber Syndrome
- Characterized by
  - Facial PWS
  - CNS involvement
  - Eye involvement
- Refer to :  
Dermatology ,Ophthalmology ,Neurology



# PWS Treatment

- Pulsed Dye laser
- Early treatment may prevent thickening
- May need several treatment
- 70-80% lightening is considered a very good response

# Case 3

- 3 months old baby
- Red mark on face
- Parents just noticed faint red mark at birth
- Lesion started to grow at 2 weeks of age



# Infantile Hemangioma



- The most common vascular tumour of childhood (2.5-5% of newborns)
- Etiology:
  - ~~Caused by unsatisfied wishes of craving for strawberries during pregnancy~~
  - Proliferation of immature endothelial cells stimulated by angiogenic factors

# Infantile Hemangiomas: Morphological Classification

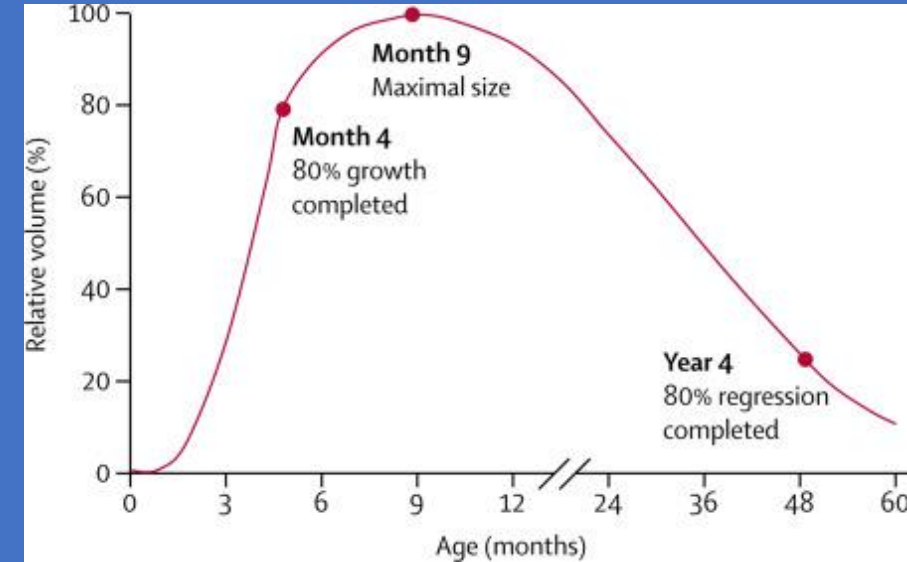
- Superficial type :Bright red papules, plaques, nodules
- Deep type :Subcutaneous, partially compressible bluish nodules
- Mixed type :Combined features of both

# Infantile Hemangioma

- Usually absent at birth
- Precursor lesion at birth in 30-50% of cases: bruise, ulcer, palor, telangiectasia

# Infantile Hemangiomas: Growth Characteristics

- Proliferative phase: Starts around 2-3 weeks
- Accelerated growth in first 3 months
- Plateau phase: Stable size
- Involution phase: Spontaneous regression over years
- 80% involution by 4 years



# Infantile Hemangiomas: Involution

- Use caution with the term “will go away”
- Hemangioma disappears BUT skin is not always normal
- 59% of hemangiomas will leave a residual skin deformity
- Epidermal atrophy, dyspigmentation
- Telangiectasia, fibrofatty tissue and skin laxity

# When to worry?

- Most infantile haemangiomas regress spontaneously
- At risk of ulceration or ulcerated
- At risk of causing a significant functional impairment
- At risk of disfigurement
- Hemangioma associated with other abnormalities



# Obstruction and functional impairment

[http://www.reviewofophthalmology.com/CMSImagesContent/2013/6/RP-0613-Peds\\_Fig2\\_250W.JPG](http://www.reviewofophthalmology.com/CMSImagesContent/2013/6/RP-0613-Peds_Fig2_250W.JPG)

[http://www.reviewofophthalmology.com/CMSImagesContent/2013/6/RP-0613-Peds-Fig1\\_250W.JPG](http://www.reviewofophthalmology.com/CMSImagesContent/2013/6/RP-0613-Peds-Fig1_250W.JPG)

# Ulceration

- Large, superficial, and segmental haemangiomas more likely to ulcerate
- Lip, the head and neck area, and the intertriginous regions

# Disfigurement

- Centrofacial hemangiomas including nose and lip haemangiomas
- Large haemangiomas affecting the breast area

# Breast hemangioma

*Theiler M, Hoffman WY, Frieden IJ. Breast hypoplasia as a complication of an untreated infantile hemangioma. Pediatr Dermatol 2016; 33: e129–e130.*

# Multiple hemangioma

- Any patient with  $\geq 5$  hemangiomas
- Liver hemangioma should be ruled out
- Abdominal ultrasound

# Lumbosacral/Perineal hemangioma

- Spinal cord abnormalities
- Urogenital abnormalities
- Anorectal abnormalities

# Large facial hemangioma

<http://www.chw.org/~media/Images/MedicalCare/birthmarksandvascularanomalies/PHACE%201.png>





# Beard distribution

<http://www.hemangiomaeducation.org/images/thumbnails/TERN69.jpg>

Yellow birth marks

# Case 4

- Newborn with yellow orange alopetic lesion on scalp

# Sebaceous nevus

- Occurs in 0.3% of newborns
- Mostly seen on the scalp or face
- Solitary, oval to linear smooth yellow/orange hairless patch
- Can get bumpy, warty, scaly at puberty

# Sebaceous nevus: natural course

- Very low risk of malignant transformation
- As long as it does not change, treatment is typically not required

# Sebaceous nevus : when to worry?

- Suspicious changes including :Focal growth /ulceration
- Extensive Sebaceous nevus

# NS syndrome

- Association of extensive naevus sebaceus with
- CNS abnormalities
- Ocular anomalies
- Skeletal defects
- Hypophosphatemic vitamin D-resistant rickets with increased growth factor 23 (FGF23) levels

# Brown birthmarks



# Case 5

- Newborn with dark black lesion

# Congenital melanocytic nevus

- Present at birth or appear in first 2 years of life (tardive)
- Very common
- 1-3% of newborns

## Classification

- Depends on projected adult size
- Small ( $< 1.5$  cm)
- Medium (1.5–20 cm)
- Large ( 20-40 cm)
- Giant ( $> 40$  cm)

## Projected adult size

- Multiply the diameter at infancy by:
- 1.7 for head lesions
- 2.8 for hands, feet, torso, forearms, arms, hips
- 3.4 for thigh lesions
- 3.3 for leg lesions

Natural course

- Proportional growth to the child growth

Grow coarse dark hair

Get raised, darkened with pebbly, verrucous surface

# Can it turn to skin cancer?

- Lifetime risk of developing melanoma in general :1-2%
- Large congenital nevi: lifetime risk of 5%
- Small/intermediate congenital nevi : 1% lifetime risk (mostly after puberty)



# Management Small/medium CMN

- Excision can be considered for aesthetic improvement or in case of suspicious changes

***Prophylactic removal of benign appearing/behaving small and medium CMN to prevent cancer is no longer warranted.***



# Large congenital melanocytic nevi

- Excise or not?
- Case by case
- No good evidence that excision decreases the risk of melanoma
- Complete removal of all nevus cells impossible
- Risk of melanoma in CNS
- Aesthetic improvement ??

# Neurocutaneous melanosis

- Proliferation of nevomelanocytes within CNS associated with CMN
- Can be seen with large CMN or multiple small to medium sized CMN
- Brain MRI in first 6 months : So refer to dermatology
- If involved : Risk of CNS melanoma

# Congenital melanocytic nevi : when to worry and refer?

- Large and giant congenital melanocytic nevi
- 2 or more congenital nevi of any size
- Changing nevus but not all changing nevi are problematic

# Case 6

- Neonate with brown spots on trunk

# Café au lait Macule

- Well demarcated, uniformly darkened color and variable size macule/patch
- Although CALM are reminder of NF but non pathologic CALM are very common specially in skin of color

# CALMs which need dermatology referral?

- 1-3 café au lait usually normal : Refer more than 3 although 6 or more is the criteria for NF
- Any number of café au lait and signs and symptoms suggestive of associated syndromes
- Darker café au lait with irregular borders

# Case 7

## Hypo and hyperpigmented patterned birthmarks



# Hypo and hyperpigmented patterned birthmarks

- They herald mosaicism
- Their genetic make up is different from surrounding skin
- Mutation in a single cell in a developing fetus
- Clonal expansion of mutated cell leads to patterned pigmentation

# Pigmentary mosaicism

- Any systemic association?
- The incidence of systemic involvement is 4-30%
- The more widespread a pigmentary anomaly is, the higher risk of systemic problems
- A careful examination and review of systems should be performed and pertinent clinical findings should direct further evaluation
- Parents to be reassured that serious complications, if present, are typically evident clinically early in infancy

# Case 8

# Mongolian spot

- Hippocrates believed that a blow to the pregnant mother's abdomen manifests as a mark at the corresponding place in the newborn
- Entrapment of melanocyte in the dermis during migration from neural crest
- Present at birth or appear in first few weeks with fading in first few years
- Very common in African-American and Asian
- Most commonly on buttocks and sacrum

- Document these unusual birthmarks in the medical record
- Can be confused for bruises of child abuse

# Mongolian spot: when to worry?

- Extensive Mongolian spots
- Association with inborn errors of metabolism
- Most commonly GM1 gangliosidosis and mucopolysaccharidosis type I (Hurler's disease)

THE SLIDE MAN – QUESTION MARK

