

An Unusual Case of Neck Swelling

Dr S Chigullapalli, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS trust

Aim- We hope this poster presentation will improve the awareness of this increasingly recognized rare condition, and avoid unnecessary investigations and interventions.

We would like to present an unusual case of neck swelling in a 3-year-old girl. She presented with a history of intermittent neck swelling for 6 months, which was worse on coughing. Further exploration of the history, together with examination and investigations, it was identified to be Phlebectasia of her neck veins.

Background

- Phlebectasia is a fusiform dilatation of a vein without tortuosity (5).
- Venous dilatation was first reported in 1928.
- “Phlebectasia” term was first used by Gerwig.
- The aetiology is largely unknown (2).
- Synonyms include venous aneurysm, venous congenital cyst, venous ectasia or essential venous dilatation.

Phlebectasia has been reported in a wide age range from 5 months to 68 years, being more common in paediatric population and often seen in children below age of 13 years.

- Both genders
- It can occur in any neck veins (3) with marked preponderance on the right side.

Investigations

- USS neck- bilateral ectatic internal jugular veins, with some turbulence in flow.
- Chest x-ray- does not demonstrate any definite mediastinal mass to suggest compressive aetiology

In our case, the dramatic nature of the swelling caused considerable anxiety to the parents and professionals alike. Prompt investigations and further tertiary input was essential in allaying the anxiety, in this otherwise benign condition.

Complications

Rare and the main complaint is essentially cosmetic.

- Thrombosis
- Horner’s syndrome
- No case of rupture has been reported in the literature.

Management

- Long term surveillance is recommended

- Surgery is only recommended in the presence of symptoms, complications and for cosmetic or psychological reason.