Case Report

Internal Jugular Phlebectasia - A Rare Case

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Since less than 250 cases of Internal jugular phlebectasia have been reported in the literature, it is a very rare condition which is often misdiagnosed clinically. This case report will contribute significantly to the sparse literature reviews available on this condition.

Case Report

4-year-old boy who belonged to low socio-economic strata was having congenital swelling in neck which increased in size on elevating intrathoracic pressure which was further diagnosed to be internal jugular vein phlebectasia .Patient was managed conservatively and was kept under observation with regular monitoring

Discussion

Neck swelling has several different differential diagnosis depending upon clinical course and characteristics. Phlebectasia though rare should be considered as one of the diagnosis while evaluating a case of neck swelling. Internal jugular phlebectasia is managed conservatively with regular follow up in most cases and surgical intervention is done in cases with complications or for cosmetic reasons

Keywords

Internal jugular vein, Phlebectasia, Venous dilatation, Neck mass

Phlebectasia means dilatation of vein, it may affect any vein of the neck but most affected is the internal jugular vein subsequently external jugular and superficial communicans.[1] It is a benign swelling with unknown etiology.[2] Its incidence is very rare.[3] Clinically it most commonly presents as soft and painless swelling in the neck which increases with rise in intrathoracic pressure like Valsalva maneuver.[4] As this condition is extremely rare there is no definitive cause but primary lack of elasticity of venous wall can be a reason in congenital cases.[5] Elevated pressure in the vein is another hypothesis that may cause phlebectasia.[6] Right sided IJV is more commonly involved than left because right innominate vein is in close contact with right apical pleura an increase in intrathoracic pressure will be transmitted to right IJV .The left IJV is located more medially so it does not receive any such stress[7].It is diagnosed by performing Ultrasound (USG) along with Doppler flow imaging and Computed tomography (CT) angiography.[8] It is generally diagnosed in childhood but incidentally may be found in adults.[9] It is managed conservatively but surgery can be done for cosmetic reasons or to avoid complications such as thrombosis or enlargement of dilatation.[10]

Case Report

4-year-old male child born out of consanguineous marriage presented to our department with history of congenital unilateral swelling over right side of neck as shown in fig 1. Swelling was gradually increasing in size with age. Patient also stated that swelling enlarged on coughing, crying and straining and was not associated with any pain, dysphagia, dysphonia, breathing difficulty or any other neck swelling. There was no history of similar complains in family. On examination patient had swelling on right side of neck that was 4*5 cm in size it became more prominent on performing Valsalva maneuver. The swelling was soft, compressible, non-tender. On

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auscultation there was no bruit. Subsequently USG neck with doppler flow was performed which showed significant dilatation of right internal jugular vein on Valsalva maneuver- likely phlebectasia as shown in fig. 2. The child is under conservative management and regular follow –up .

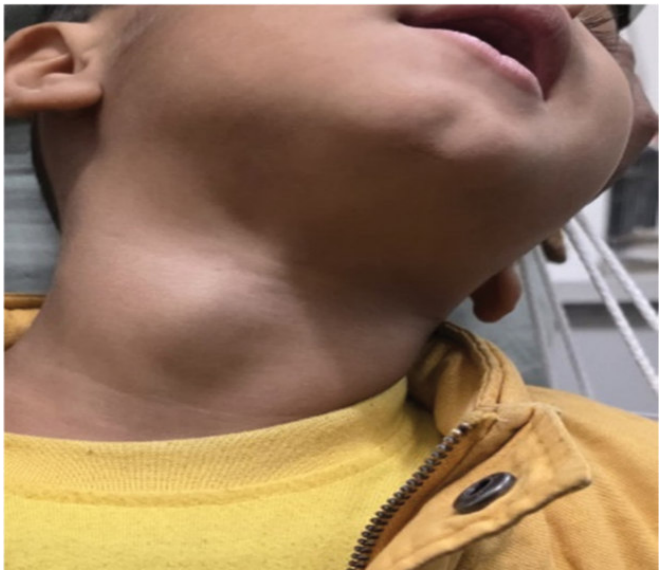

Fig. 1. Swelling right side of neck

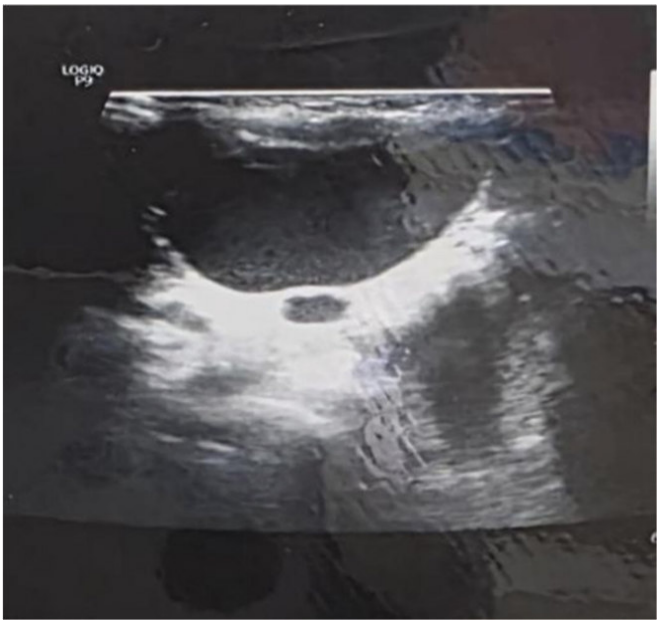

Fig. 2. USG neck showing phlebectasia

Discussion

Phlebectasia was seen in internal jugular vein in studies of SYet al chung,[11] Alberia S. et al[8] which agrees with our study. Internal jugular phlebectasia(IJP) mostly presents as unilateral swelling as in our study but in study of Feguera et al[12] bilateral IJP was found in few pediatric cases .In the study of Krstacic A et al[13] and Thulasiraman V et al[14] adult IJP was most commonly found on left side and on the right side in children similarly it was found on right side in 4 year child in our case .In some studies it has been found that phlebectasia is associated with conditions such as Neurofibromotasis type 1 and Ehler Danlos syndrome.[15,16] Road Traffic Accidents was the cause in study of Rha et al,[17] But there was no such association in our case.

Conclusion

Internal jugular phlebectasia is a rare benign case which is most frequently found in children. Gold standard investigation for its diagnosis is ultrasound doppler imaging. In majority of the cases, it is managed conservatively, Surgical management is done only for cosmetic reasons or in those having complications. Though rare but, phlebectasia should be kept in mind as one of the differential diagnosis while evaluating a case of neck swelling.

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