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Congenital hemangioma presenting with acute hemorrhage: A case report and review of the literature

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Hemangiomas are true neoplasms of endothelial cells and should be differentiated from vascular malformations which are localized defects of vascular morphogenesis. Hemangiomas are the most common benign soft tissue tumor of infancy and childhood, occurring in 12% of all infants and are grouped into Infantile Hemangiomas (IHs) and Congenital Hemangiomas (CHs). Congenital hemangiomas are usually present as solitary lesions at birth and are rare with a combined incidence of less than 3% of all IHs. Complications include ulceration (with or without bleeding) thrombocytopenia and heart failure. A case was reported (inpatient review of a young infant in USA). We searched PubMed with the words 'hemorrhage/bleeding+hemangioma'. All the relevant articles were reviewed. Aim of this study was to report a healthy young infant who had acute bleeding from a congenital hemangioma. Congenital hemangiomas are rare and many questions about their pathogenesis and management remain unanswered. It must be borne in mind that these lesions behave differently from the more common infantile hemangiomas. Although most bleeds from CH can be controlled with pressure, one must be conscious of the fact that life threatening hemorrhage can occur. Further awareness and familiarity with these uncommon congenital lesions will facilitate accurate diagnosis and management.

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