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Retinal hemorrhages in infant: Diagnostic dilemma?

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Retinal hemorrhages in infants sometimes pose a diagnostic dilemma for ophthalmologists. Retinal hemorrhages in infancy are believed to be a cardinal sign of Non Accidental Injury. They may occur in up to 89% of infants with NAI. They may result from direct head trauma or the acceleration and deceleration forces generated by the shaking of the head. Shaken baby syndrome is a unique form of child abuse in which the only consistent external physical signs are ocular manifestations. Differential diagnoses of retinal hemorrhages include thrombocytopenias, leukemias, anemias and infections such as infective endocarditis. This is a case report of a 9 month old baby who was referred from outside with a single episode of seizures. He was admitted in the NICU for his unconcious condition. Fundus examination was planned before usual lumber puncture, but surprisingly it revealed many preretinal hemorrhages and he was then further investigated to find out the cause for extensive preretinal hemorrages.

Biography

Rajwinder Kaur has completed her MBBS from Govt. Medical College, Amritsar and Post-Graduation in 2007. She is currently working as the Associate Professor at Department of Ophthalmology from Adesh Institute of Medical Sciences and Research.

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