A case of congenital measles caused by transplacental infection

Steffi Jan A Herrero
Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Philippines

Congenital measles is an infection acquired *in utero* and defined as an illness meeting the WHO measles case definition in an infant less than 10 days of age. It is a rare disease and most reported cases occurred 40 to 50 years ago. There are still not enough data be it locally or internationally, regarding incidence of measles among neonates nor measles occurring within few days of life, hence still connotes rarity of the disease. Presentation of the disease differs from that of the typical measles since it has a shorter incubation period due to direct transplacental transmission in utero bypassing the respiratory and replication phase. Cases may vary from mild to fatal forms. We herein present a case of a 14 day-old boy who was exposed to measles through his mother *in utero*. Initial presentation was rash on the 6th day of life, apart from the typical measles which presents with cough, coryza, conjunctivitis and fever. IgM measles assay was done which revealed positive, hence confirming the diagnosis. He was given intravenous immunoglobulin and Vit A and was discharged improved. Congenital measles may cause poor clinical outcomes, including fetal loss, low birth weight and preterm delivery or may present with mild clinical manifestations to fatal forms. Diagnosing congenital measles is still based on clinical signs and symptoms, confirmatory tests such as measles assay or PCR can be used since the presentation of the disease varies from that of the typical measles. Prevention include vaccination of women of childbearing age and early vaccination of infants.

Notes: