

Short bowel syndrome: rare cause of intestinal obstruction in the new born

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Introduction: Congenital short bowel syndrome is a rare disease that is often associated with intestinal malrotation and dysmotility. Classically, it looks like subocclusion. Rarely, the diagnosis is made because of chronic diarrhea with malnutrition. We report two cases of congenital short bowel causing a syndrome of neonatal occlusion.

Observation 1: It is about a newborn from a consanguineous marriage who presented bilious vomiting since the age of 10 days. Radiological investigations (abdominal radiography without preparation, transit of small intestine, water-soluble enema, abdominal Doppler) have not viewed any obstacle. Surgical exploration found a short hial measuring 40 cm without associated intestinal malrotation. Histological examination of the appendectomy was normal. The evolution was marked by the persistence of the occlusive syndrome postoperatively. The infant died at the age of two months from a severe malnutrition.

Observation 2: It is about a new born who was hospitalized at the age of 15 days for food vomiting and poor weight gain. Abdominal ultrasound with doppler was normal. A cow's milk protein allergy was suspected. The evolution was marked by the absence of clinical improvement under hydrolysed cow's milk protein. At the age of 30 days, he presented bilious vomiting. The abdominal radiography without preparation showed the presence of air-fluid levels of small bowel. Surgical exploration found a short non-peristaltic small bowel measuring 35cm associated with intestinal malrotation. The postoperative course was uneventful. At day 28 postoperatively, the infant died of a severe sepsis.

Conclusion: Early onset of clinical symptoms and the presence of abnormal intestinal motility are signs of poor prognosis of congenital short bowel syndrome. The pathogenesis is not clear but genetic transmission is a possible mechanism.