

Abstract

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Congenital rickets due to maternal vitamin D deficiency in a sunny island of Greece.

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BACKGROUND: A full-term male infant presented with clinical and biochemical findings consistent with the diagnosis of congenital rickets: weak muscle tone, craniotabes, episodes of tremor, hypocalcaemia, elevated serum alkaline phosphatase, secondary hyperparathyroidism, decreased 25-hydroxyvitamin D and normal 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D serum levels.

FINDINGS: The mother's history and biochemical findings suggested nutritional vitamin D deficiency. Treatment with calcium and vitamin D resulted in the disappearance of clinical findings of rickets, normalization of the baby's biochemical profile and normal growth. It is surprising that this case occurred in an affluent setting, in the Mediterranean island of Crete, with an abundance of sunlight throughout the year.

CONCLUSION: We report this case in order to emphasize the continuing occurrence of congenital rickets even in populations not considered at risk for hypovitaminosis D. A high index of suspicion is required for prompt diagnosis and treatment, thus preventing complications.

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