Quiz

A five years old girl reported to the dermatology clinic because of swelling of both feet. On examination, she had a stunted growth with swollen feet more on left than right, fig (1). Dorsum of the left foot showed a sinus which discharged clear sticky serous fluid on pressure, fig (2). It was noted that the toe nails were hypoplastic. Both hands were also swollen with hypoplastic finger nails, (fig 3). The mother mentioned that the nails were slow in their growth. The child also had a short webbed neck, fig (4). The condition was observed since birth. The child has normal intelligence - mother and father are first relatives and no other member of the family is similarly affected.

What is your diagnosis?

Answer:

The child has Turner syndrome. The most common sex chromosome abnormality (45 x 0) with an incidence of 11.8 in every 100,000 live female births. The syndrome is characterized by short webbed neck with wide spread cutaneous laxity, low set ears, ptosis and epicanthal folds. There is lymphoedema of both hands and feet with hypoplastic nails. Other lymphatic malformation may lead to ascites and pleural effusion. Such children have stunted growth with gonadal dysgenesis and sexual immaturity and no secondary sex characters. The ovaries are formed of stroma and affected women are sterile. The syndrome may be associated with hearing loss, renal or cardiovascular anomalies, increased risk to type I Diabetes Mellitus and increased risk of endometrial cancer and gonadal malignancy. The neck may show cystic hydroma which is a congenital abnormality of the back of the neck and is usually a fatal manifestation.

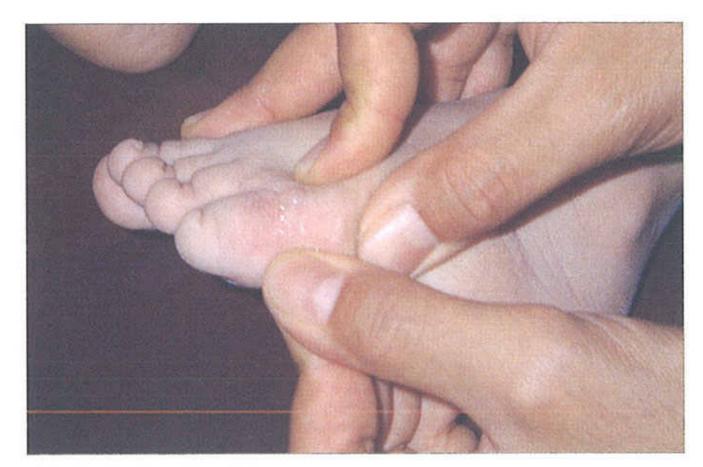


Fig 2. Sinus on dorsum of left foot discharging serous fluid

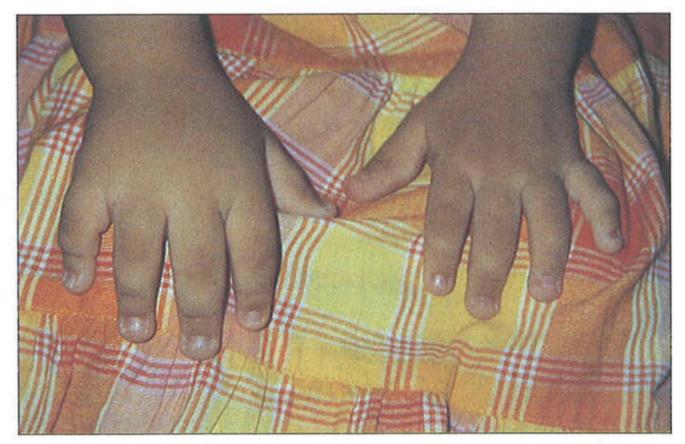


Fig 3. Swollen hands with hypoplastic nails



Fig 1: Swollen left foot with hypoplastic toes

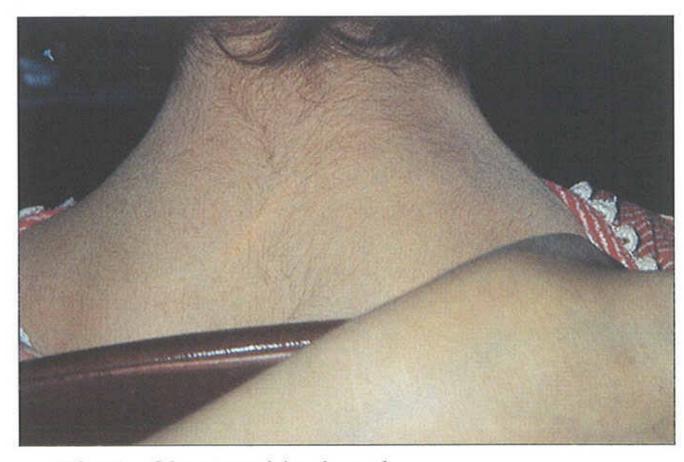


Fig 4. Short webbed neck

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NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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