To the Editor,

Upper extremity immobility of newborn is associated with presence of prolonged labor history, obstetric brachial plexus palsy, clavicle fractures as well as congenital or traumatic shoulder dislocation. Dislocation or subluxation due to shoulder joint disortion is quite rare that 0.018-0.07% of newborns suffer (1-4). While physicians encounter a baby with arm immobility they usually consider it because of obstetric brachial plexus palsy and/or clavicle fractures, dislocation and/or subluxation which are quite rare seldom find place in differential diagnosis (1, 4). Those with upper extremity motor deficit due to dislocation and/or subluxation usually remain undiagnosed and immobile for a long time and it may result with upper extremity complications. Delayed treatment usually requires surgical operation and long-lasting rehabilitation programs (5, 6).

We present a rare case of traumatic subluxation of shoulder pre and post reduction clinical data of a 10 day old baby. Ten days old baby born with normal spontaneous vaginal delivery weighed 3150 grams with normal Apgar score in the state hospital. After delivery it was noticed the baby can’t move her right upper extremity. Post birth X-ray had showed no fracture, than patient was referred to our hospital with pre-diagnosis of obstetric brachial plexus palsy.

Closed joint reduction has been performed under general anesthesia, during manipulation phase click sound was heard and full joint reduction was seen in control fluoroscopy. Post-operative patient was performed 20-30 degree velpau bandage after it was seen joint has full mobility.
Control x-ray showed joint reduction is full (Figure 2). After ten days long velpau bandaging, it was seed joint mobility was full and stability so bandaging was stopped and then patient referred to rehabilitation. Comparative radiography performed after four month showed that humeral head and sphericity are equal (Figure 3).

The diagnosis was made on average at the age of 22 days (3). The physician must be aware of which subluxation and/or dislocation of shoulder in newborns is quite rare we aimed to address that it should be clearly differentiated from other postnatal complications and treated at the very early stage.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

References


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