

Factor-X deficiency; a rare disorder to be looked for in cases of congenital bleeding tendency

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1 Dear Editor;

2 ⁶ Factor X deficiency is a rare coagulation disorder with autosomal recessive inheritance pattern.
3 People with this disorder present with a myriad of early life bleeding complications. We report
4 here a case who had presented to the physicians with many bleeding complications at different
5 times of his life but was not diagnosed earlier.

6 ¹⁰ A 23-years-old male presented to the medical emergency unit of our hospital with complaints of
7 hematuria for five months, black stools for ten days, and bleeding from nose for four days. He
8 had a history of recurrent bleeding from different sites, starting from the time of his circumcision
9 on seventh day of his life. The circumcision wound bled so severely that his wound had to be
10 sutured to achieve hemostasis. At the age of 11 years, he developed severe epistaxis, for which
11 he remained admitted in the hospital for 15 days and received transfusion of a standard pack of
12 red cell concentrate (RCC). At 12 years of age, he was re-admitted for a massive hematoma in
13 right leg after getting injection from a quake that resulted in weakness of his right leg due to
14 nerve compression. After seven years, he was operated upon for the drainage of psoas abscess.
15 During operation, he developed severe bleeding, and had to be transfused with 18 pints of fresh
16 frozen plasma (FFP), and one pack of RCC. He remained admitted in the hospital for almost
17 seven months when his wound healed completely after daily wound wash, and aseptic dressings.
18 The patient did not report ¹ fever, chills, night sweats, or weight loss. ¹ He denied tobacco, alcohol,
19 or drug abuse.

20 He was born to consanguineous parents. One of his elder sister had complaints of heavy
21 menstrual bleeding since menarche but was not yet investigated. He was not taking any
22 medications affecting coagulation function.

1 On examination, he had marked palmar and conjunctival pallor. His vital signs were normal.
 2 Examination of the oral cavity did not show any petechiae or gingival anomalies. Abdominal
 3 examination showed scar mark of drainage of psoas abscess and associated incisional hernia.
 4 There was no lymphadenopathy nor abdominal organomegaly. Rest of the systemic examination
 5 was unremarkable.

6 His laboratory evaluation showed a hemoglobin of 11.2 g/dL (normal range: 12.9–16.1 g/dL)²,
 7 and a normal platelet and total leucocyte count. The prothrombin time (PT) was 30 s (normal: 15
 8 s), and activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) was 62 s (normal: 33 s). His D-dimer values
 9 were >250 ng/mL D-Dimer Units (normal: ≤ 250 ng/mL D-Dimer Units) but the fibrinogen level
 10 was not decreased, excluding the possibility of disseminated intravascular coagulation. The total
 11 protein levels were in the normal range. PT and aPTT mixing studies corrected with a 1:1 mix
 12 with normal plasma (1). The assessment for serum complement levels, antinuclear antibody, and
 13 antinuclear cytoplasmic antibody revealed normal values. Serologic tests for hepatitis B and C
 14 and rheumatoid factor were non-reactive. The levels of different coagulation factor levels were
 15 tested and only factor X levels were decreased i.e. 13% (normal: 50-150%)

16 He was managed with 6 pints of FFPs because factor X concentrates were not available. (Figure-
 17 1A) He was discharged after ten days following complete resolution of bleeding. Prior to
 18 discharge, he was properly counseled about the disease and management options, and was
 19 advised to seek immediate medical care in case of bleeding from any site.

20 Seven months after discharge, he presented again to the hospital with non-healing wound, and
 21 purulent discharge from the site where psoas abscess was surgically drained. After diagnostic
 22 imaging, the patient was diagnosed to have enterocutaneous fistula that was excised surgically,

1 and right hemicolectomy with ilio-colic anastomosis had to be done. The wound of the surgical
 2 incision did not heal, and purulent discharge persisted. The patient was again operated upon for
 3 exploration. The surgeon found multiple adhesions of descending colon and small-gut loops and
 4 small-gut tears along with many long fistulous communications in right hepatic flexure. The
 5 adhesions were broken, affected portion of the small gut and descending colon were removed,
 6 and tube colostomy was done in the right hypochondrium while ileostomy was constructed in the
 7 left hypochondrium. (Figure-1B). The wounds for ileostomy and colostomy kept on bleeding for
 8 three months before coming to an arrest, and he had to be transfused with 4-5 pints of FFPs
 9 every week. The patient is now getting food orally, and stable on home medications and
 10 colostomy.

11 Factor X is ⁴ the first enzyme in the coagulation pathway to fibrin formation. Factor X deficiency
 12 has an estimated prevalence of 1 in 5 -10 x 10⁵ in the general population (1), ⁴ more common in
 13 populations in which consanguineous marriage is traditional (1). Pakistan has a reported
 14 incidence of 3.5%, 6%, and 26.1% in three different reports about patients with bleeding
 15 disorders (2-4). ² Patients with congenital factor X deficiency can present at any age. Generally, patients
 16 with more severe disease ⁵ present during infancy. Heterozygotes are often clinically asymptomatic.
 17 Homozygous individuals experience symptoms such as easy bruising, hematuria, soft-tissue
 18 hemorrhages, hemarthroses, epistaxis, and menorrhagia (5). Differential diagnoses of Factor X
 19 deficiency include von-Willebrand disease, Waterhouse-Friderichsen syndrome,
 20 ² Cryoglobulinemia, Cushing Syndrome, Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation,
 21 Dysfibrinogenemia, Factor II, IX, V, VII, VIII, XI deficiency, Hemolytic-Uremic Syndrome,
 22 Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura, Osler-Weber-Rendu Syndrome, Scurvy, Thrombotic
 23 Thrombocytopenic Purpura, and Vitamin K Deficiency.

1 Laboratory findings include prolonged PT and prolonged aPTT. For the ³ treatment of factor X
2 deficiency, restoring circulating factor X levels to 10-40% of normal is usually adequate.
3 Therapeutic measures may include infusion of FFP, and prothrombin complex concentrates. ² The
4 ³ prognosis for patients with factor X deficiency depends on the severity of the disease. In general,
5 patients with very low levels of functional factor X have a greater tendency to bleed, and face a
6 greater risk of life-threatening complications (6).

7 In conclusion, factor X deficiency, though rare, is a life-threatening disease. Its knowledge is
8 important to differentiate it from other disorders of coagulation. Timely diagnosis of the
9 condition will save the patient from unnecessary interventions (like Factor VIII concentrate
10 injections), and will lead to adequate management.

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1 *Figure legends*

2 *Figure-1:* 1A : Figure showing the patient being transfused with fresh frozen plasma at initial
3 presentation. 1B: Figure showing the patient with right tube colostomy and left ileostomy

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