Is Iatrogenic Cushing's a New Form of Child Neglect?

İyatrojenik Cushing Yeni Bir Çocuk İhmali Formu Olabilir Mi?

Yeni Bir Çocuk İhmali Formu / A New form of Child Neglect

Habip Almiş[1], Ahmet Köse[1], İbrahim Hakan Bucak[1], Eda Mengen[2], Mehmet Turgut[1]
[1]Department of Pediatrics, Adiyaman University, Faculty of Medicine, Adiyaman,
[2]Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Cukurova University, Faculty of Medicine, Adana, Turkey

Özet

Çocuk istismarı, giderek önem kazanan bir konu olup bir çocuk istismarı tipi olan çocuk ihmali; bilerek veya bilmeyerek çocuğa zarar verme davranışıdır. Bu yazımızda bez dermatiti nedeniyle 11 ay boyunca topikal klobetazol 17-propionat kullanılması sonucu iyatrojenik cushing sendromu gelişen on üç aylık bir erkek çocuk olgu, iyatrojenik Cushing sendromunun bir çeşit çocuk ihmali olup olmadığının tartışılması amacıyla sunulmaktadır. Çocuğunun sağlığını korumak ve hastalandığında tedavisi ile ilgili yapılması gerekenleri öğrenmek ailelerin temel görevlerinden biridir. Sağlık çalışanları tarafından ailelerin yeterli oranda bilgilendirilmesinin sağlık alanındaki çocuk ihmallerini azaltacağı kanısındayız.

Anahtar Kelimeler

İyatrojenik Cushing; Çocuk İhmali; Kortikosteroit

Abstract

Child abuse is an increasingly important issue. One of the main types of abuse is child neglect, that is, behavior in which the child is knowingly or unknowingly injured. In this article; we report a case of iatrogenic Cushing's syndrome due to clobetasol 17-propionate treatment that was used inappropriately, in order to discuss whether or not this is a form of child neglect. It is one of the basic tasks of families to protect the health of the child and learn how to treat that child when he or she is ill. We believe that by being adequately informed by the health professionals, families may reduce the risk of child neglect.

Keywords

Iatrogenic Cushing's; Child Neglect; Corticosteroid

DOI: 10.4328/JCAM.3727 Received: 02.07.2015 Accepted: 31.07.2015 Printed: 01.10.2015 J Clin Anal Med 2015;6(suppl 5): 644-6
Corresponding Author: Habip Almis, Department of Pediatrics, Adiyaman University, Faculty of Medicine, 02040, Adiyaman, Turkey.
T.: +90 4162161015 E-Mail: drhabipalmis@yahoo.com

Introduction

Diapers sometimes cause inflammation where they come into contact with the skin, a condition known as "diaper dermatitis". As it is generally improved with short-term topical corticosteroid therapy, topical corticosteroids are often the preferred group of drugs appropriate or inappropriate prescribed by doctors to treat this condition [1].

Corticosteroids are generally effective when used at the appropriate dosage and for the appropriate duration in accordance with the patient's age and symptoms; however, quite serious systemic and local side effects may appear if used in inappropriate doses for a long period of time [2,3].

Child abuse is an increasingly important issue. One of the main types of abuse is child neglect, that is, behavior in which the child is knowingly or unknowingly injured.

In this article; we report a case of iatrogenic Cushing's syndrome due to clobetasol 17-propionate treatment that was used inappropriately, in order to discuss whether or not this is a form of child neglect.

Case Report

A thirteen-month-old male patient was admitted to our clinic with a cough and fever. Our patient was born at term weighing 3750 grams and was the 31-year-old mother's third pregnancy. Due to diaper dermatitis, the infant was prescribed clobetasol 17-propionate at the age of two months. The dermatitis did not improve, so the family continued using the same drugs on the area for eleven months.

On physical examination, pulse rate was 92 beats / min, respiration was 27 breaths / min, blood pressure was 80/50 mmHg, body weight was 8.8 kg (10-25 percentile), and height was 76 cm (10-25 percentile). The patient had a Cushingoid appearance (Figure 1). Laboratory findings showed that the complete blood count and biochemical values were within normal limits. When the patients' blood was taken in the morning, the level of adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) was 7.22 pg / ml (normal range 10-50 pg / ml), and cortisol levels <0.01 mg / dl (normal range 6.7 to 22.6 mg / dL).

Iatrogenic Cushing's syndrome was diagnosed in the patient, and use of the cream used was immediately ceased. The Cushingoid appearance of the patient was also seen to improve on subsequent follow-up.

Discussion

Child abuse and neglect are serious problems worldwide, having lasting negative impacts on the physical and mental health of children. Forms of child abuse include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and child neglect. There are many different subtypes of child neglect. Physical neglect is the failure to provide appropriate nutrition, hygiene, clothing, supervision, and medical care for children, while medical neglect can occur in different forms, and can cause harm or death in some cases [4-6].

Many factors can lead to medical neglect, preventing children from receiving appropriate medical care. Caregivers may not recognize signs or symptoms in their children that could be a precursor to serious illness. They may also understand why it is important to follow the instructions of the physician [7,8].



Figure 1. Cushingoid appearance of patient

Long-term use of topical corticosteroids that caused iatrogenic Cushing's syndrome in our patient could count as a form of medical neglect, which emerged due to the ignorance and low educational level of the family. Families should have sufficient knowledge to protect their children's health. If they do not seek treatments for diseases when they occur, this is a form of passive child neglect. We believe that it is essential that the information provided by health professionals is clearly expressed so that families can understand how to use prescribed drugs and administer treatment.

It is one of the basic tasks of families to protect the health of the child and learn how to treat that child when he or she is ill. We believe that by being adequately informed by the health professionals, families may reduce the risk of child neglect.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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How to cite this article:
Almiş H, Köse A, Bucak İ.H, Mengen E, Turgut M. Is Iatrogenic Cushing's a New Form of Child Neglect? J Clin Anal Med 2015;6(suppl 5): 644-6.