CASE REPORT

INTUSSUSCEPTION IN EARLY INFANCY –A REPORT OF FOUR CASES.

Narayan Das, Nilotpal Chakma

1. Assistant Professor. Department of General Surgery, Agartala Government Medical College & G.B Pant Hospital.
2. Assistant Professor. Department of General Surgery, Agartala Government Medical College & G.B Pant Hospital.

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Dr. Narayan Das,
Old Kalibari Lane,
Krishnanagar, Agartala,
Tripura, West. PIN-799001.
E-mail: narayandas9862019118@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: Intussusception is the most common cause of acute intestinal obstruction in infants. Intussusception affects predominantly children in the 1st and 2nd years of life. We present here our experience with four patients of intussusception presenting in early infancy in early summer months.

KEY WORDS: Intussusception, early infancy.

INTRODUCTION: The invagination of a proximal intestinal segment into a distal section is referred to as intussusception (1). Intussusception is the most common cause of acute intestinal obstruction in infants (2). Small bowel intussusceptions (SBI) are rare and constitute only 1-8.3% all intussusceptions (3). The available literature categories SBI into three: SBI in children aged over 2 years, SBI due to pathological lead point, and SBI occurring in postoperative period (4). We present here our experience with patients with intussusception in early infancy in early summer months.

CASES REPORT: During a two months period (January to February 2013), four male infants presented in hospital with colicky abdominal pain, bilious vomiting, abdominal distension, and bleeding per rectum. All of them presented between 5–8 months. All had been completed weaned off breast feeds by the age of 4-5 months. Abdominal mass could not be palpated in any of them. Abdominal ultrasound revealed evidence of intussusception in the right lower abdomen. Barium enema shows “coiled spring” appearance, and it is the most diagnostic tool. All cases managed with intestinal resection and end to end anastomosis for ischaemic bowel. All cases were ileocolic intussusception. The post operative courses were uneventful and patients were discharged in time.

DISCUSSION: Intussusception is the most common cause of acute intestinal obstruction in infants (2). Intussusception can occur at any age, it most frequently occurs below the age of 2 years, with peak incidence between 5 and 10 months (3). Most commonly, intussusception are ileocolic, but can also be ileo-ileal, colocolic or located at other gastrointestinal locations (4). More than 90% of infant intussusception are idiopathic and approximately 10% of paediatric patients have a pathological lead point intussusception (5). It is more common in male infants (1). Relationship to change in diet, loss of positively acquired maternal immunity (early weaning away from breast milk), acute enteritis with hyperperistalsis and mesenteric adenitis

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have been known to be present in infancy with idiopathic intussusception and the increased incidence in early summer months common in infant intussusception(6).

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Barium enema X-Ray showing
Coil-spring appearance

Intra-op. pic. showing ileo-colic
Intussusception, A-Caecum, B-Ileum