



IMMUNOBULLOUS DISORDER IN A 4-MONTH-OLD INFANT DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGES

Ahmed Ilyas, MBChB, Mmed (Paeds)
MSF- OCBA- Somalia Mission, Baidoa project

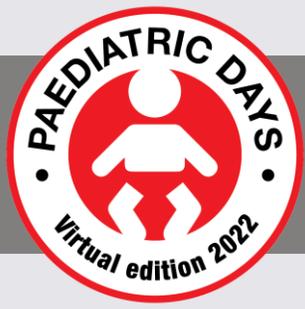
This study is : Meets the exemption criteria for MSF ERB review and has ethical approval & consent for the photos use





Introduction: Immunobullous Disorders (IB)

- Heterogeneous group of diseases
- Rarely seen in infants.
- **Bullous pemphigoid** and **Linear Ig A Bullous Dermatitis** are most common IB disorders in children.
- Typically present with variations of bullae, erosions and surrounding erythema.
- Caused by pathogenic antibodies binding to protein targets in the epidermis.



Case description

- **Age**: 4-month-old .
- **Gender**: Male
- **Complaint** : Diffuse, ill-defined, irregular skin erosions on the face, chest, shoulder and scalp.
- **History**: The condition started when the infant was 40 days old with flaccid, clear blisters on his left cheek -> irregular shaped erosions associated with fever. No other abnormality detected during examination. The patient was delivered at home and was previously healthy.
- **Past medical History**: Nil significant, normal pregnancy. Exclusively breastfed. Family history of similar condition skin lesions.

Case description



ADMISSION



POST 14 DAYS PREDNISOLONE



WEEK 4- TAPERING PRED



Diagnosis

- Diagnosis of skin disorders in settings without lab capacity for histopathology is a challenge.
- Gold standard = biopsy of perilesional skin for direct immunofluorescence.
- Diagnosis of IB disorder was made on clinical suspicion.
- Diagnosis made after dermatologist advice via telemedicine platform.



Management

- Maintain regular breastfeeding.
- IV Cloxacillin for 10 days, then oral amoxicillin-clavulanic acid.
- Prednisolone 1 mg/kg twice a day for 2 weeks then slow taper.
- Local wound care.



Discussion and Conclusion

- IB diseases are uncommon skin disorders rarely seen in infants.
- Most common clinical presentation is bullae, erosions and surrounding erythema.
- Diagnosis of IB diseases in low resource setting is challenging.
- Highlights importance and value of telemedicine in supporting the diagnosis and management of unusual, rare cases.
- Unfortunately, patient didn't come back for follow-up at week 5.