



## Cerebellar Hypoplasia as a Manifestation of 6q25 Deletion in a Preterm Newborn

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### Abstract

Deletions of chromosome 6q are rare and almost all have some form of craniofacial dysmorphisms and structural brain malformations such as corpus callosum agenesis, colpocephaly, polymicrogyria and hydrocephalus. Here we report a preterm infant with cerebellar and pontine hypoplasia as a presentation of terminal deletion of 6q25.

**Keywords:** 6q25 deletion; Cerebellar hypoplasia; Preterm infant

### Introduction

Deletions of chromosome 6q are rare and almost all have some form of craniofacial dysmorphisms [1,2]. Short neck, broad nose, low set ears, hypertelorism, downslanting palpebral fissures are some of them. In postnatal cases, brain abnormalities, intellectual disabilities, hypotonia are also seen. Structural brain malformations including ventriculomegaly, corpus callosum agenesis, colpocephaly, polymicrogyria and hydrocephalus associated with 6q deletions have been reported [3]. Here we report a preterm infant with cerebellar hypoplasia as a presentation of terminal deletion of 6q25. Materials and Methods

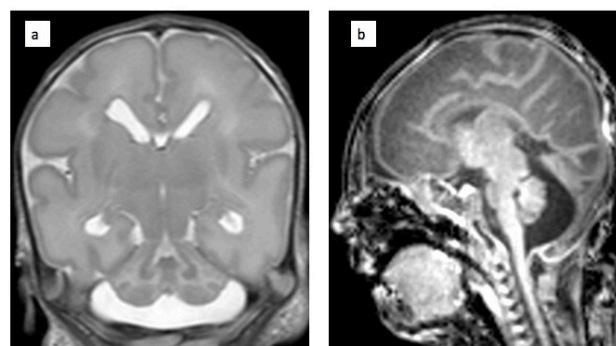
### Case Report

Female, born at 30 2/7 gestational weeks, by cesarean section, with a weight of 1200 g, length of 34 cm and head circumference of 26 cm. She was the 5th infant of nonconsanguineous marriage. Prenatal ultrasonography (USG) revealed cerebellar hypoplasia and enlarged cisterna magna. She was admitted to neonatal intensive care unit with diagnosis of prematurity, and respiratory distress syndrome. Intratracheal surfactant was administered. She presented the following main dysmorphic features on physical examination: narrow forehead, downslanted palpebral fissures, hypertelorism, broad nose, low set ears and flat filtrum (Figure 1). Cranial USG showed bilateral hypoplasia of cerebellar hemispheres and vermis and enlarged cisterna magna. Cranial magnetic resonance imaging (MR) showed hypoplasia of pons and cerebellum (Figure 2). Echocardiography was performed due to heart murmur and showed perimembranous ventricular septal defect and secundum atrial septal defect. Lisinopril and furosemid treatment

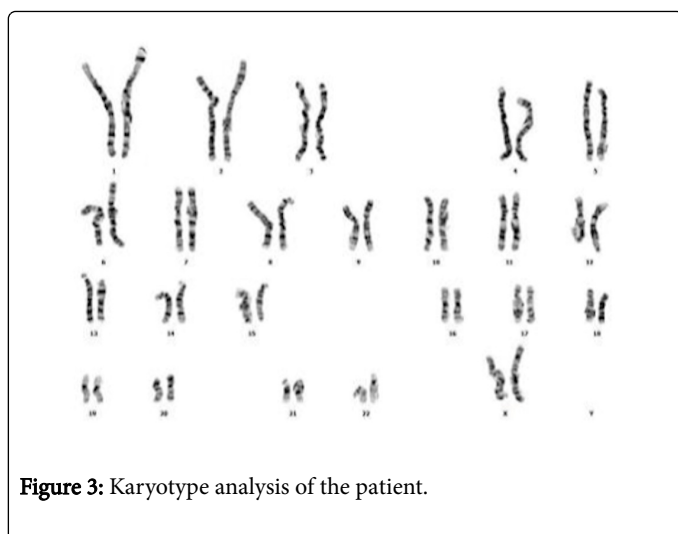
was started. Renal USG was normal. On 10th day of life, acute renal insufficiency began, due to unresponsiveness to medical therapy, peritoneal dialysis was performed. The patient was intubated and connected to mechanical ventilator due to respiratory insufficiency. Eye examination revealed bilateral zone 2, grade 2 retinopathy due to prematurity, optic nerve was pale. On follow up, the patient has abdominal distension, biliary residues via feeding catheter, and persistent intestinal segments on abdominal graphy. On operation necrotic intestinal segments was seen, two drenous catheters was installed. After few weeks, barium graphy showed normal intestinal passage and feeding was started and increased to full enteral amounts. Steroid therapy was started for bronchopulmonary dysplasia but it had no benefit. We consider cerebellar and pontine hypoplasia was the cause of respiratory insufficiency and tracheostomy was planned. On chromosomal analysis of peripheral blood tissue 46, XX, del(6)(q25) (Figure 3). Parental chromosomal analysis was planned.



**Figure 1:** Dysmorphic facial appearance of the infant: narrow forehead, downslanted palpebral fissures, hypertelorism, broad nose, low set ears and flat filtrum.



**Figure 2:** (a) Coronal T2-weighted. (b) Sagittal T1-weighted image show hypoplasia of the cerebellar hemispheres and pons.



**Figure 3:** Karyotype analysis of the patient.

## Discussion and Conclusion

Isolated 6q subtelomeric deletions are relatively rare and very few cases have been reported [3-6]. The most common clinical features include dysmorphic features, microcephaly, facial dysmorphism, cardiac defects, seizures, hemivertebra and brain abnormalities such as hydrocephalus and abnormal corpus callosum [4,6-8]. On nadir reports on this subject, cases are usually diagnosed after infancy period, while evaluating for dysmorphic features, seizures or brain malformations [4]. In a unique case report, prenatal evaluations of chromosomal analysis after USG findings such as structural brain abnormalities like agenesis of corpus callosum, hydrocephaly and ventriculomegaly stated 6q25 deletion on karyotype analysis [2].

In our case, during neonatal period kranial MR revealed hypoplasia of pons and cerebellum. To our knowledge our case is the first case with 6q deletion associated with cerebellar and pontine hypoplasia.

Previously reported cases and our case indicate that structural brain abnormalities might be manifestation of deletions of chromosome 6q. Combination of dysmorphic facial appearance and MR findings showing brain abnormalities such as pontine and cerebellar hypoplasia are an indication for testing subtelomeric rearrangements.

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