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Case report: A Boy with an inability to walk; do not forget about scurvy

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Abstract

Scurvy, a condition caused by vitamin C deficiency, is characterized by a syndrome of multisystem disorder due to defective collagen production and antioxidative function. This condition is infrequent in this modern era; thus, it is often not within the list of differential diagnoses. The broad clinical picture is generally overlooked as other systemic illnesses, resulting in an extensive investigation that delays the diagnosis. Herein, we report a case of an 8-year-old boy with underlying autism spectrum disorder who presented with lower limb pain and other constitutional symptoms. Examination revealed multiple hyperpigmented scars over the upper and lower limbs and gingival hyperpigmentation. With history of picky eating habits and clinical symptoms supported by radiographic findings, scurvy was suspected and subsequently confirmed based on a low level of

ascorbic acid. With vitamin C supplementation and proper nutritional support, the patient recovered well. © 2024, Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Autism spectrum disorder; Lower limb pain; Nutritional deficiency; Scurvy

Indexed keywords

EMTREE drug terms

antioxidant; ascorbic acid; C reactive protein; collagen; rheumatoid factor

EMTREE medical terms

abdominal pain; anemia; arthralgia; Article; autism; bone pain; breathing rate; caloric intake; caregiver; case report; child; clinical article; colonoscopy; distress syndrome; fatigue; fever; follow up; gingiva bleeding; health care personnel; heart rate; human; hyperpigmentation; joint swelling; juvenile rheumatoid arthritis; leukemia; leukocyte count; limb pain; lower limb; male; mediastinum mass; microcytic anemia; mouth hygiene; mouth ulcer; muscle strength; muscle training; physical activity; platelet count; school child; scurvy; spine malformation; systemic lupus erythematosus; thorax radiography; tibia; walking difficulty; wound healing

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers

Unique identifiers assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) to ensure accurate identification and tracking of chemicals across scientific literature.

ascorbic acid	134-03-2, 15421-15-5, 50-81-7
C reactive protein	9007-41-4
collagen	9007-34-5
rheumatoid factor	9009-79-4

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