CASE REPORTS

ABSTRACT

Objective: To present a rare case of congenital maxillomandibular fusion or syngnathia.

Methods:

Study Design: Case Report
Setting: Tertiary Public Teaching Hospital
Participant: One patient

Results: A 3-year-old girl with oral adhesion (syngnathia) caused by a mandibular to maxillary fibrous band with bony fusion underwent successful surgical division and release. Subsequent monitoring and serial oral dilations were performed post operatively, resulting in mouth opening of 24mm over a period of three months. Currently, the patient is able to tolerate a general liquid diet.

Conclusion: Congenital maxillomandibular fusion is a very rare condition with few cases reported. We hope this report contributes to its diagnosis and management in other children.

Keywords: congenital maxillomandibular fusion, syngnathia

From birth, the upper aerodigestive tract of neonates plays an important role in simultaneous nose-breathing, suckling and swallowing. It is crucial for this mechanism to function properly to ensure survival. Problems that interfere with this design, such as bilateral choanal atresia, may result in death, unless attended to emergently. This report a case that could have had similar consequences over a slightly longer course.

CASE REPORT

A newborn girl from Nueva Ecija, Philippines was noted to have maxillo-mandibular fusion after full-term spontaneous home delivery to a 31-year-old G3P3 (3003) mother attended by a midwife. The mother was a non-smoker and non-alcoholic beverage drinker with irregular prenatal check-ups but had multivitamins and ferrous sulfate during pregnancy. She took unrecalled medications for an upper respiratory tract infection at 1 to 2 months of pregnancy and denied exposure to viral exanthems, chemicals, radiation or teratogenic drugs.

On examination, there was complete bilateral fusion of the bony upper and lower jaws. A nasogastric tube was inserted through the right nasal cavity. The rest of the physical examination findings were normal. Complete blood count revealed a white cell count of 18.45 with segmenter predominance. She was started on Ampicillin 60 mg/IV every 8 hours, Gentamicin 14 mg/IV