At birth, an otherwise healthy term female infant was noted to have a 3 cm³ blue-coloured tense cyst-like lesion attached by a skin-coloured pedicle to the ulnar aspect of the right hand, adjacent to the fifth metacarpal–phalangeal joint (figure 1). Over the following 48 h, the cystic lesion involuted and appeared necrotic, but remained attached to the hand via a skin-coloured pedicle (figure 2). It eventually necrosed, shrinking in size and self-amputated on day 21. The infant was referred to a plastic surgeon for removal of the remaining pedicle.

The differential diagnosis included an accessory digit or a fibrolipoma. The site and pedicle are typical of accessory digits, but the cystic nature and blue colour were unusual. A similar fibrolipoma lesion has been reported, but was located on the palmar surface.1 Histology of the lesion demonstrated necrotic, desiccated tissue composed of skin, connective tissue and a central area of partially ossified cartilage. The histology is consistent with a necrotic accessory digit.

Simple fluid-filled cysts can appear blue due to the fluid within. We suggest that in this case, the blue cyst-like appearance is due to massive, localised tissue oedema caused by lymphatic obstruction. This is likely to have been either a developmental abnormality in the abnormal digit or torsion related. After birth, progressive necrosis would explain the alterations in appearance in the first few days.

Maria Ann Mannion,1 Brendan Fitzgerald,2 Peter Filan1
1Department of Neonatology, Cork University Maternity Hospital, Co Cork, Ireland
2Department of Pathology, Cork University Hospital, Co Cork, Ireland

Correspondence to Dr Maria Ann Mannion, Department of Neonatology, Cork University Maternity Hospital, Wilton, Co Cork, Ireland; mannionmaria@yahoo.co.uk

Competing interests None declared.

Patient consent Obtained.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed.

To cite Mannion MA, Fitzgerald B, Filan P. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 2015;0:F1. doi:10.1136/archdischild-2015-308940

Received 2 June 2015
Revised 1 July 2015
Accepted 4 July 2015

Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 2015;0:F1. doi:10.1136/archdischild-2015-308940

REFERENCE
The blue accessory digit

Maria Ann Mannion, Brendan Fitzgerald and Peter Filan

*Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed* published online July 20, 2015

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://fn.bmj.com/content/early/2015/07/20/archdischild-2015-308940

These include:

References

This article cites 1 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://fn.bmj.com/content/early/2015/07/20/archdischild-2015-308940#BIBL

Email alerting service

Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Topic Collections

Articles on similar topics can be found in the following collections

- Competing interests (ethics) (95)
- Journalology (103)
- Oncology (202)
- Immunology (including allergy) (384)

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/