O.S. Rubina¹, O.A. Moravska², K.T. Bertsun², I.A. Arcibasova², O.M. Bagriy², A.V. Pavlichenko², L.P. Holod³, A.A. Nikoluk³ CLINICAL CASE OF SEVERE HYPOGLYCEMIA IN A NEWBORN INFANT

¹National Medical University named after N.I. Pirogov, Chair of Pediatrics №1, Vinnytsa ²Vinnytsa Regional Children's Clinical Hospital, Ukraine ³Department of Organization and Consultations of Vinnytsia District Pathology and Anatomy Bureau

The article deals with the clinical case of hypoglycemia in a newborn infant. Early clinical symptoms and diagnostic practices of hypoglycemia in a newborn infant are presented.

Key words: newborns, hypoglycemia, insulinoma.

Hypoglycemia is an abnormally diminished content of glucose in the blood to lower than 2,2 mmol/L. Hypoglycemia is the most common cause of death among newborns and it also leads to severe impairment of functions of the central nervous system. It is an urgent state that calls for the quick diagnostic evaluation and use of immediate medicinal treatment. In newborns the symptoms of hypoglycemia can develop right after birth or during the first 3–5 days after birth. In this case hypoglycemia can be caused by prematurity, intrauterine growth retardation, or inborn errors of carbohydrate metabolism. The very cause of hypoglycemia in newborns is the deficit of substances that are the source of glucose (such as glycogen), hereditary defects of carbohydrate metabolism (for example, glucose-6phosphatas that help produce glucose from glycogen), hyperinsulinism, lack of contrisular hormones.

For the development of the brain infants have to use big quantities of glucose, that is why undiagnosed or untreated cases of hypoglycemia in newborns and infants result in severe complications and permanent damage of the central nervous system, epileptic fits and retarded development. The younger the child and the harder the case, the higher the risk of permanent neurological damage [1].

There are 1,5-3 cases of hypoglycemia per 1000 newborn infants, the figures are much higher in the risk groups.

Transient hypoglycemia is observed in two out of three premature underweight newborns, the main cause being the deficit of glucose sources (glycogen, proteins, fats) that is complicated by the defects of gluconeogenesis in the liver. Hyperinsulinism and defects of secretion of contrinsular hormones are not characteristic of premature underweight newborn infants [2].

Hypoglycemia in newborns can produce somnolence, cyanosis, apneic episodes, seizures or jitters. It is significant to diagnose hypoglycemia as it has symptoms that resemble other diseases such as sepsis, hypotonia, asphyxia, inborn heart failure, complications of maternal medical treatment.

Inadequate supply of glucose that appears along with the symptoms, relief of symptoms when the glucose is raised to normal, a low plasma glucose measured at the time of the symptoms are considered to be differential and diagnostic characteristics of hypoglycemia (Whipple's triad) [4].

In case hypoglycemia remains severe or is recurrent despite the infusion of glucose -12-16 mg/kg/minute, its most obvious causes are hyperinsulinism or deficit of contrisular hormones (cortisol, somatotrop hormone, glucogen) or inborn damage of gluconeogenesis or glucogen synthesis. It is recommended to treat hypoglycemia with the glucose infusion -20-25 mg/kg/minute. A characteristic symptom of hypoglycemia is macrosomia. The diagnosis is usually correct if the level of glucose in blood is lower than 1,70 mmol/L and the insulin level in serum is higher than 72 pmol/L. Usually the level of insulin is higher than 144 pmol/L.

The most common causes of hyperinsulimism in newborn infants are hyperplasia of beta-cells of the pancreas gland, insulinome or nesidioblastosis. In some cases all three types of betacell hyperplasia are present. The type of hyperplasia can be defined only with the help of histological examination of the tissue of the pancreas gland (in autopsy or biopsy) [3].

Treatment. If hyperinsulinism is diagnosed but hypoglycemia is recurrent despite the infusion of glucose at 10 mg/kg/minute in combination with glucocorticoid treatment, the subtotal pancreatectomia (80–95 percent of pancreas gland tissue is removed) without splenectomia. If the cause of hyperinsulinism is not taken care of, patients develop severe neurological damage. The cases of the use of octreotide (analogue of somatostatine that suppresses the secretion of insulin) are reported to treat hypoglycemia, caused by hyperinsulinism, in the newborn infants. In contrast, the treatment with octreotide in such cases is not effective.

The symptoms of hypopituitarism (deficit of somatotrope hormone (STH)) are micropenia, facial defects (cleft lip and cleft palate). The causes of hypopituitarism are hyperplasia or aplasia of adenohypophysis, certain anatomic and functional disorders of hypothalamus and adenohypophysis (deficit or disorder of liberine pathways). Hypopituitarism leads to the deficit of somatotrope hormone, adrenocorticotrope hormone (ACTH) and cortisol [1]. Laboratory examination of the blood sample taken when the symptoms of hypoglycemia were present, showed a low insulin level (lower than 72 pmol/L), cortisol, tiroxin (T4), tireotrope hormone (TTH) and STH. It is important to consider the fact that the level of STH is high in the newborns the first days and is 20–40 ng/ml. The number of ketone cells in blood and urine, free fat acids and urine acid in blood are within the norm. In cases of hypertiutarism in newborns the rise of the glucose level after the injection of glucagone is within the normal range in contrast to the newborns with hyperinsulinism. The replacement glucocorticoid and somatropin therapy produces very good results. Such treatment can be used during the first year of life to prevent hypoglycemia. The replacement hydrocortisone therapy (0,75 mg/kg/24hs in two or three takings) is prescribed lifelong [4]. Hepatomegalia is common for glycogenesis.

The abovementioned considerations prove that differential diagnosis of hypoglycemia in the newborn infants is rather complicated, so it will be illustrated with a clinical case.

The *girl T.* was given birth to by the woman with Chronic pyelonephritis that was more severe during pregnancy. It was the woman's second pregnancy. As the pregnancy was complicated in the first and second halves and was at risk, the woman stayed in hospital. The heredity of both parents was without complications.

The birth was natural, the waters were within the normal range, clear and transparent. But the newborn was in distress with the umbilical cord wound twice around the neck. The condition at birth was defined as satisfactory, but eventually it became worse, it was accompanied with symptoms of general suppression, with tonic convulsions, central cyanosis, frequent apnae. By the end of the 24 hours the clinical picture was evident, so glucose level examination was done. Its result was 2,23 mmol/L. Hypoglycemia was treated with the injection of 10% of glucose. As the infant's condition was bad and the case was severe the newborn was transported to the department intensive therapy of Vinnytsa Regional Children's Clinical Hospital.

When the infant was taken to the ICU the condition was bad, with respiratory distress and neurologic symptoms, under sedation due to convulsions and microcirculation, IVL parameters medium, crelitation in the lower part of the lungs, blood pressure was maintained with low doses of inotropes (dobutamin 5 mkg/kg/minute). Diuresis was 2,7 ml/kg/hour.

Diagnosis on admission to the hospital: ischemic hypoxia of the CNS, swelling of the brain, convulsive syndrome, respiratory distress. Glucose level -1,0 mmol/L, after correction therapy -1,1 mmol/L, after 3 hours -2,9 mmol/L. Other laboratory changes: hypoproteinemia -41,6 g/l, leukositosis -28,8*10(9/l, movement to the left of segment-nucleus <math>-81%.

As the case progressed convulsions disappeared, anticonvulsant therapy was not used since the seventh day; consciousness was not regained, aspiration problems called for the use of the breathing machine, the infusion of inotropes was still required, hypoglycemia was at 0,86 mmol/L. Temporary rise in the glucose level of 3,0–3,1 mmol/L was achieved after the glucose infusion of 18 mg/kg/minute and 200-600 mg/kg by jet stream. On the tenth day the newborn was examined by the pediatric endocrine expert who diagnosed the case as symptomatic hypoglycemia. Insulinoma? Laboratory tests were to be done: testing the C-peptide cortisol, STH, ACTH levels and computer tomograthy (CT) of the pancreas gland.. The ultrasonographic testing showed that the pancreas gland was 8*10*10mm, with highly increased echogenicity, homogeneous. Laboratory testing results; insulin -109, 43 pmol/L), C-peptide - 12 ng/ml, cortisol lower than 58,9 mk/dl, STH -12,2 n/l, TTH - 3,16 ME/l, AKTH - 36,29 pmol/L). On the twelfth day the infant was examined by the pediatric endocrine expert of the district hospital. The diagnosis was hypoglycemia syndrome. Insulinoma? MRT was recommended but it was not carried out due to objective reasons. On the fourteenth day the infant was examined by the pediatric endocrine expert. The conservative therapy of hypoglycemia and hyperinsulinism was done: glucose infusion of 16-25 mg/kg/minute, hydrocortisone 10-20 mg/kg/24 hours stream and as a 24 hour infusion, glucagone - 0,5 mg/kg/24 hour, santostatine -5 mk/kg/24 hour. Refracterity reaction to the conservative treatment was evidenced, hypoglycemia was at 0,12-2,6 mmol/l. The pediatric oncologist and the head surgeon discussed the idea of the removal of part of the pancreas gland but the decision was made against the operation.

During a month and a half the infant stayed in the department intensive therapy hypoglycemia was unstable at 0,12-6,0 mmol/l,

with the level of 0,12-2,0 mmol/l most prevalent despite the conservative therapy. The condition of the child was very bad due to neurological symptoms: 3-stage comma, tonic and clonic convulsions, skin dryness, aspiration problems, blood pressure was maintained with inotropes infusions (dobutamin — 5-10 mkg/kg/minute). Neurosonopraphy showed progress of gydrocephalus and total leukomalacia.

Diagnosis: hyperinsulinism (insulinoma? Neoplasia of the pancreas gland?). Hypoglycemia syndrome. Hypoxic-metabolic damage of the CNS, early recovery period, total encephalomalacia, third-stage comma, hypertensive hydrocephalus syndrome. Double sided pneumonia with severe development. The first stage of deficit anemia.

The infant died at the age of 2 months and 5 days.

Gistology of insulinoma: hyperplasia and proliferation of B-cells with formations like trabecular adenoma solid inclusions with hyperplasia of the nucleus (growth in nucleus and citoplasma) and overlaying of nuclei; presence of 2-5 mitoses visible at high magnification of the microscope (x400); fragmental deposits of amiloide, hemorrhage in the stroma.



Fig. Gistology of insulinoma

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