BACKGROUND
Congenital syphilis is an infectious disease caused by *Treponema pallidum* transmitted by infected mother to her baby during pregnancy. Late congenital syphilis is recognised with 2 or more years after birth. One of the main aspects is observed with the triad of Hutchinson, characterised by the presence of interstitial keratitis, eighth nerve deafness and Hutchinson’s teeth. This manuscript reports a case of late congenital syphilis presenting with Hutchinson’s triad at an age of 7 years. These clinical features are related to syphilis present during pregnancy and at birth, however they commonly become apparent after 5-years of age.

CASE PRESENTATION
A 7-year-old female presented with her mother to the clinic with the complaints of poor dental esthetics. The patient was diagnosed with late congenital syphilis (2 years after...
ing odontogenesis. As a result, formation of abortive enamel changes in the enamel epithelium induced by on anterior teeth. This finding is associated of degenerative developed later, 4 2 years after birth. All the characteristics of disease.

Most of the clinical signs of congenital syphilis were developed later, 4 2 years after birth. All the characteristics of Hutchinson’s triad were identified. 4–7 Interstitial keratitis (figure 1), with corneal scarring and initial presentation of bilateral blindness; deafness from auditory nerve disease and dental defects (figures 2 and 3).

Restorations in posterior teeth were observed and it is not possible to affirm the presence of mulberry molars (figure 4). The patient’s mother reported precocious loss of deciduous teeth because of dental caries.

OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP
The patient was under medical supervision and was referred to the paediatric dental clinic for restorative treatment of anterior teeth.

DISCUSSION
Congenital syphilis sometimes is undiagnosed and often inadequately treated. 14 It is also associated with poor socio-economic conditions with a low educational level, 2 as demonstrated in the case report presented, with the several complications of disease.

Most of the clinical signs of congenital syphilis were developed later, 4 2 years after birth. All the characteristics of Hutchinson’s triad were identified. 4–7 Interstitial keratitis was diagnosed when she was 6-year-old, 10 with a bad prognosis. Although eighth nerve deafness often starts when the child is between 8 and 10 years of age, 11 the patient had hearing loss when she was 6-years-old.

In the case reported, dental defects were observed only on anterior teeth. This finding is associated of degenerative changes in the enamel epithelium induced by T. pallidum, leading to the complete destruction of the ameloblasts during odontogenesis. As a result, formation of abortive enamel and also cessation of enamel production occurred. 5,7 It was not possible to affirm the presence of mulberry molars because of dental restorations.

Premature loss of primary teeth associated with congenital syphilis has been reported. 8 However, it is not possible to affirm if this occurrence in the patient was associated with congenital syphilis or premature loss of deciduous teeth because of caries reported.

Figure 3 The semilunar notch on the incisal edge of mandibular incisors (Hutchinson’s teeth).

Figure 4 Panoramic radiograph: presence of restorations in posterior teeth and absence of some deciduous teeth that it is not common to see in this patient’s age.

Congenital syphilis is an eminently preventable disease. In order to reduce the likelihood of its occurrence, a repeat test towards the end of gestation or at the time of delivery should be done for women in high-risk groups. 1

Learning points

▶ Congenital syphilis reflects a failure of prenatal care systems and syphilis control programs as found in this case reported.
▶ Detection and appropriate timely penicillin treatment is a highly effective intervention to reduce this infection disease, avoiding significant morbidity in the future.
▶ Hutchinson’s triad usually becomes apparent after 5-years of age.

Competing interests None.
Patient consent Obtained.

REFERENCES