Beau's lines in postpartum period and hyperparathyroidism

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DESCRIPTION

A woman brought her baby for review 3 months after delivery. The patient reported that she developed transverse nail ridges-Beau's lines (figure 1). During pregnancy, she was incidentally found to have a raised serum calcium of 3.89 mmol/L (adjusted 4.13). Her parathormone level was 67.6 pmol/L (1.3–6.8). She delivered at 35+4 weeks' gestation, and was subsequently found to have hyperparathyroidism with parathyroid adenoma. Beau's lines are formed as a result of temporary interference with nail growth, for example, following severe illness or drug administration.

Figure 1 Beau's lines.

The baby developed transient neonatal hypercalcaemia (3.59 mmol/L) and was asymptomatic. The baby's levels normalised without any treatment.

A search on PubMed did not reveal any items with these two associations, and neither is hyperparathyroidism listed as a cause of Beau's lines in the Oxford Textbook of Medicine.

To our knowledge, this is the first report in the literature of Beau's lines associated with hyperparathyroidism.

Learning points

- ▶ This is the first report in the literature of Beau's lines in association with postpartum hyperparathyroidism.
- ▶ Hyperparathyroidism should be considered in the differential diagnosis or aetiology of Beau's lines.
- ▶ Neonatal hypercalcaemia in such cases as this can be managed conservatively.

Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained.

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