



A rare case report on bardet-biedl syndrome

S.Manasa*¹, M.Alekhy¹, G.Ramya Bala Prabha², T.Rama Rao³

1 Pharm D students, CMR College of Pharmacy, Kandlakoya, Medchal, 501401, Telangana.

2 Assistant professor, Department of Pharm D, CMR College of Pharmacy, Kandlakoya, Medchal, 501401, Telangana.

3 Principal, Department of pharm D, CMR College of Pharmacy, Kandlakoya, Medchal, 501401, Telangana.

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*Corresponding author:

Phone : +91 - 9121876894

Email : manasasamala1999@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS) is a rare autosomal recessive disorder that primarily affects children born to consanguineous marriages. Cone-rod dystrophy, polydactyly, obesity, learning difficulties, hypogonadism in males, renal abnormalities, nystagmus, speech disorders, developmental delay, polyuria/polydipsia, ataxia, and poor coordination/clumsiness are all common symptoms of this condition. This syndrome has been related to twenty-one different loci (BBS1-BBS21). BBS is usually not diagnosed until the patient begins to exhibit the visual impairments that are hallmark of rod-cone dystrophy, unless the diagnosis is suspected based on antenatal imaging demonstrating polydactyly and structural kidney abnormalities. The current treatment for Bardet Biedl syndrome is symptomatic, with a focus on intensive care of diabetes, hypertension, and metabolic syndrome to reduce the secondary effects of these illnesses on susceptible organ systems already compromised by BBS, particularly the eyes and kidneys. The patient was admitted with known complaint of bardet biedl syndrome, chronic kidney disease stage 4, hypothyroidism and with chief complaints of pedal oedema, shortness of breath, decreased urine output, pedal oedema, abdominal distention, facial puffiness. Symptomatic treatment is prescribed along with hemodialysis (thrice a week).

INTRODUCTION

Laurence and Moon described a family of four siblings suffering from retinitis pigmentosa, obesity, spastic paraparesis, and cognitive difficulties in 1866[1]. LaurenceMoonBardetBiedl syndrome was coined after Bardet and Biedl independently reported on other similarly affected people who also had post-axial polydactyly, but there was controversy as to whether they were the same entity. Laurence Moon and Bardet Biedl syndromes were later separated, however mutations in known BBS genes have been found in families with both syndromes . It is now often referred to as BBS. Bardet-Biedl syndrome is a rare autosomal recessive disorder that usually affects children born from consanguineous marriages. Cone-rod dystrophy, polydactyly, obesity, learning difficulties, hypogonadism in males, renal abnormalities, nystagmus, speech disorders, developmental delay, polyuria/polydipsia, ataxia, and poor coordination/clumsiness are all common symptoms of this condition. The initial signs among these patients appear in the first ten years of life, with poor night vision being the most common[2].The syndrome has a 1;1,60,000 probability of occurring. India has reported only about 15 cases. The disease

incidence is substantially greater in some populations with a high level of consanguinity or those that are geographically isolated, with disease incidence of 1 in 13,000 in isolated people of Newfoundland and 1 in 17,000 live births in Kuwait[3].

CASE PRESENTATION

A 24 year old female presented chief complaints of shortness of breath, decreased urine output, pedal oedema, abdominal distention, facial puffiness and she was previously diagnosed as “bardet biedl syndrome” with chronic kidney disease stage IV with primary hypothyroidism and vitamin D3 deficiency. She was born to the consanguineous parents. She is neither diabetic nor hypertensive. The patient is anemic. Normal developing milestones. She attained menarche at 13 years of age and her menstrual cycle was regular (3/30) , no dysmenorrhea. The patient is normal till 12 years of age, later she gained weight and noticed progressive decline in vision in both eyes, presently she developed retinitis pigmentosa with impaired vision since 5 years.

On examination, she has obesity, polydactyly (right and left lower limb) (FIG.1), wide spaced eyes (FIG.2), wide nasal bridge,



Fig. 1. : Showing Polydactyly for both lower limbs

The patient vital signs : blood pressure-140/90mmHg , pulse rate-110 beats per min, decreased carbon dioxide saturation (24.2), glucose random blood sugar was normal.

Laboratory findings of haemoglobin was 6.8g/dl, W.B.C 7.89 [10^3 U/L], RBC 2.32 [10^6 U/L], neutrophils (3.68 [10^3 /UL]), lymphocytes 0.92 [10^3 /UL], monocytes 0.42 [10^3 /UL], eosinophils 0.08 [10^3 /UL], platelet 161 [10^3 /UL]. total serum protein 7.28 gm%, serum albumin 2.66 gm% , blood urea 317.5 gm%, serum creatinine 14.3 mg%, Total serum bilirubin 0.26mg%, serum electrolytes: sodium 139 mEq/L ,potassium 6.2 mEq/L, chloride 116mEq/L. Urine examination revealed that presence of pus cells 3-4 , epithelial cells 2-3, R.B.C 1-2, urine is pale yellow in colour and has acidic reaction.

Ultrasound scan of abdomen has revealed cholelithiasis and colour Doppler study revealed urinary bladder was partially distended, both kidneys are normal in size and with grade II echotexture, vitamin D3-9.54 microgram/ml, leutinising hormone 7.42, prolactin 14.3, FSH 10.76 and prothrombin time-

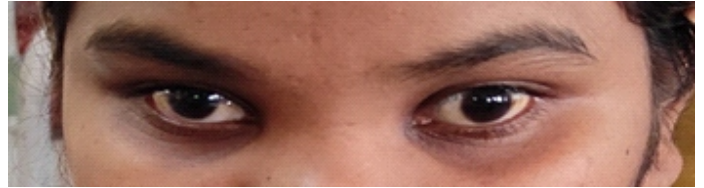


Fig. 2. : Wide spaced eyes

test 15.3 sec, control 13 sec, I.N.R 1.17. Thyroid stimulating hormone 15.106. Brain CT showed hypodensity of cerebral white matter. she had a few episodes of seizures (3-4 episodes of generalized clonic tonic seizures). She was undergoing hemodialysis 3 times a week.

There are no proven effective treatments for vision deterioration, either to prevent or to ease it. Spectacles had been recommended in the past since our patient had low eyesight, but she had now entirely lost her vision. As she is having anemia (6.8gm/dl) she was treated with T.IFA(335mg) ,decreased urine output is treated with lasix (20mg), she had few episodes of seizures and she was treated with Inj.levipil (500mg), hypothyroidism with T.thyronorm (50mcg), vitamin D3 deficiency with T.calcitriol and vitamin supplements.As the patient is in a stage 4 chronic kidney disease undergoing hemodialysis with oral administration of nodosis(sodium bicarbonate).

CASE DISCUSSION

This syndrome has been linked to twenty-one distinct loci (BBS1-BBS21). The genes mostly code for proteins that are either part of the core BBSome complex (BBS1, BBS2, BBS4, BBS5, BBS7, BBS8, and BBS9) or part of a BBS chaperone complex (BBS6, BBS10, and BBS12), which are important for the BBSome stabilisation and control. Other genes code for

MODIFIED DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

PRIMARY FEATURES

FOUR FEATURES ARE REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT OF:

ROD-CONE DYSTROPHY

POLYDACTYLY

OBESITY

LEARNING DISABILITIES

HYPOGONADISM IN MALES

RENAL ANOMALIES

THREE PRIMARY PLUS TWO SECONDARY FEATURES ARE REQUIRED OF:

SECONDARY FEATURES

SPEECH DISORDER/DELAY

STRABISMUS/CATARACTS/ASTIGMATISM

BRACHYDACTYLY/SYNDACTYLY

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

POLYURIA/POLYDIPSIA

ATAXIA/POOR COORDINATION/IMBALANCE

MILD SPASTICITY

DIABETES MELLITUS

DENTAL CROWDING/ HYPODONTIA/SMALL ROOTS/HIGH ARCHED PALATE

LEFT VENTRICULAR HYPERTROPHY/CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

HEPATIC FIBROSIS

OR

Beales et al modified diagnostic criteria propose that a clinical diagnosis requires either four primary findings or three primary and two secondary features. BBS summarises the primary and minor clinical characteristics, as well as their frequency [5].

proteins involved in BBSome activation and localization (ARL6), BBSome entrance into cilia (BBS17), or are related with the BBSome complex (BBS14). Some of the proteins' roles aren't completely understood. BBSome is a stable protein complex that regulates ciliary protein trafficking and acts in the formation and maintenance of the primary cilium, a structure that is widely expressed and highly conserved throughout evolution[4].

BBS is usually not diagnosed until the patient begins to exhibit the visual impairments that are hallmark of rod-cone dystrophy, unless the diagnosis is suspected based on antenatal imaging demonstrating polydactyly and structural kidney abnormalities. [5]

The current treatment for Bardet Biedl syndrome is symptomatic, with a focus on intensive care of diabetes, hypertension, and metabolic syndrome to reduce the secondary effects of these illnesses on susceptible organ systems already compromised by BBS, particularly the eyes and kidneys (6). For the majority of patients, weight management is a never-ending battle (7). Some people choose bariatric surgery (8) or antiobesity medication, but for the vast majority of patients, dietary advice is the safest and most successful way to lose weight (9). Hormone replacement therapy can be used to treat the anterior pituitary gland's poor functional capability, which causes slow metabolism, poor growth, and infertility. Levothyroxine can help to boost the body's metabolism, resulting in less fatigue and hair loss. retinal dystrophy is the first symptom that arises before the age of 10 years but affects almost all patients below the age of 20 years. Glasses can be used to treat this, and regular ophthalmologist visits are recommended. Our patient is treated symptomatically with standard treatment.

CONCLUSION

The clinical features of Bardet-Biedl syndrome cause significant morbidity and mortality. A geneticist, ophthalmologist, nephrologist, endocrinologist, psychologist, dietician, speech and language therapist, nurse, and a patient support group representative should all evaluate the patient on a yearly basis. This provides a place to go for regular reviews and risk assessments, especially when it comes to renal and endocrine degradation. Those in the affected family who have a history of consanguineous marriages should seek genetic counselling. Outside-the-family marriages should be encouraged in view of aetiology.

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