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## NEONATAL CHICKEN POX

E. O. JODAR, M.D.\*

In a brief review of the literature only eleven cases of neonatal or intrauterine Chicken Pox could be found. Hubbard<sup>1</sup> in 1878 reported typical Varicella in a one day old infant. In 1939 Shuman<sup>2</sup> reviewed the literature of 6 cases and reported a 7th. In 1939 Campbell<sup>3</sup> reported another case. In 1944 Oppenheimer<sup>4</sup> reported congenital Chicken Pox with visceral lesions. In 1947 Lucchesi, LaBocetta, and Peale<sup>5</sup> reported the 10th case and in 1948 Caravias Vera<sup>6</sup> reported the 11th. Other cases in which Chicken Pox was transmitted in utero have been reported in which the infant did not survive. The present case I believe worthy of being reported.

Case Report: On April 6, 1957 a 7 pound female infant was born to a mother who had encrusted lesions of Chicken Pox. The infant had a normal temperature of 99°F and appeared perfectly well except for skin lesions. Several clear vesicles were scattered over the body and there were also some crusts for a total of 8 lesions. A photograph taken one hour after birth showed typical "tear-drop" lesions.

Questioning the mother revealed that she had been exposed to a child with Chicken Pox in my office on March 9, 1957 and showed her initial lesion on March 23, 1957 which was 14 days later. She gave no other history of Chicken Pox and had no scars indicating previous disease.

Course: The infant was taken home at once and did not develop further lesions. She was never ill and within one week all scabs had disappeared. After one month several scars were present.

On April 9, 1957 the 15 month old male sibling showed his first lesion of Chicken Pox and the course of his illness was typical for a mild form of this disease. This child had been in my office on March 9, 1957 but apparently did not contract the disease at this exposure as did his mother.

Since this infant was immediately isolated at birth because the attending nurse thought the infant had Impetigo no other cases developed in the nursery. The mother was also isolated until removed from the hospital the next day and no new cases occurred among her contacts.

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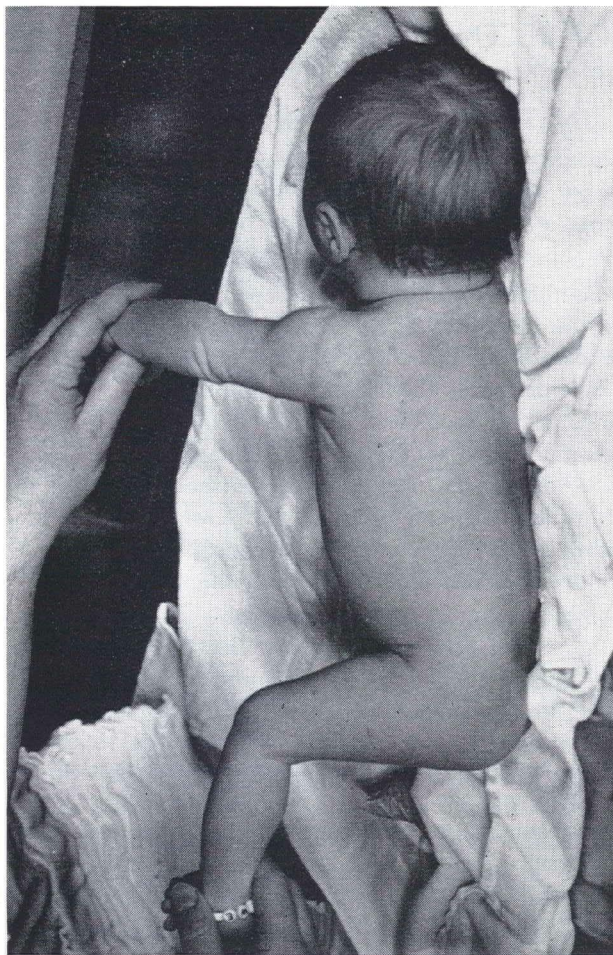


Figure 1. Infant with Chicken Pox, Age 1 hour.

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