



Use of Smartphone Camera and Telemedicine in the Management of Neonatal Priapism

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ABSTRACT:

Introduction and Objective Priapism in the neonate is rare, poorly understood and causes parental anxiety. The use of smartphone camera and Telemedicine in two cases seen between 14/02/2018 and 15/ 05/2019 are presented.

Methods Case 1. A 5-day old baby was referred on 14/02/2018 with a history of persistent intermittent penile erections since birth. The parents were concerned whether this will affect their decision for the child's circumcision on the 8th day of life. Mom documented these episodes of prolonged erections with her smart phone camera. Physical examination revealed a normal healthy neonate. Occurrence of priapism during the office visit matched the digital photo appearance. The child was managed by watchful waiting. He had a successful circumcision on the 8th day of life. Follow up has included e-Visits with no reported recurrence of priapism for over 18 months

Case 2. A 19- day old baby was referred on 30/10/2018 with suspected penile chordee. Parents, however, expressed concerns of baby having prolonged intermittent penile erections since birth. Child urinated normally and had no pain with these erections. Mom documented episodes of the occurrence of prolonged penile erections since birth and these had similar appearance as during the office visit. Watchful waiting with periodic assessment through telemedicine was adopted. Priapism resolved spontaneously before age 28 days with no recurrence in 15 months.

Results: Concerned parents captured images of priapism episodes with their smart-phone cameras. These were helpful in watchful waiting management with satisfactory outcome. Telemedicine as a platform for follow-up was attractive to the mothers. It was convenient, time saving while their smart-phone cameras provided appropriate updates of their children's condition.

Conclusion: Neonatal priapism though uncommon causes anxiety for the parents. The use of smart-phone cameras by mothers to document priapism was useful in the watchful waiting management strategy. Telemedicine for follow up was attractive, time saving and convenient.