The bilateral Morgagni hernia with Down’s syndrome: Rare association

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Abstract
Congenital diaphragmatic hernias are a rare condition among paediatric practitioners. Diaphragmatic Morgagni hernia is also a rare condition and its association with Down’s syndrome is further rarer.

We present a 18 months old child who presented to emergency department of Kind Abdullah Hospital, Bisha, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with respiratory tract infection and dyspnoea. There was absence of breath sounds both lung bases. Plain chest radiograph suggested bilateral diaphragmatic defect with suspected loops of gut on both sides of pleural cavity.

Conclusion: To diagnose a rare condition like bilateral Morgagni hernia in childhood, we need to have high index of suspicion. Early diagnosis and treatment may save the life of these children.

Keywords: Congenital diaphragmatic hernia, Bilateral Morgagni hernia, Down’s syndrome, Atrial septal defect
hernia, this suggest that there may be a genetic component involved. Morgagni hernia occurs in fraternal and identical twins, it suggested that genetic factors play a role in diaphragm development. Newborns may present with respiratory distress at birth similar to Bochdalek hernia, additionally recurrent chest infections and gastrointestinal symptoms have been reported in those with previously undiagnosed Morgagni hernia.6,7

Conclusion:
Bilateral Morgagni Hernia with Down syndrome and associated atrial septal defect is very rare clinical entity. In order to diagnose such condition, we should have high index of suspicion. Physicians caring for these patients should be aware of this, and a high index of suspicion is recommended to obviate delay in diagnosis with its associated morbidity. We advocate surgical repair even in asymptomatic patients. This is to obviate the risk of strangulation and colonic perforation. We also advocate a transabdominal approach via either an upper midline or an upper transverse incision. This allows easy reduction and inspection of contents, allows access and repair of bilateral hernias, and corrects an associated malrotation if present.

References: