ACUTE INFECTIOUS PURPURA FULMINANS: A RARE COMPLICATION OF DENGUE FEVER

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BACKGROUND AND AIMS

Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral disease that has rapidly spread in all regions of WHO in recent years. Dengue virus is transmitted by **female mosquitoes** mainly of the species *Aedes aegypti* and, to a lesser extent, *Ae. albopictus*. Dengue is widespread throughout the tropics, with local variations in risk influenced by rainfall, temperature and unplanned rapid urbanization. The spectrum of disease manifestations in dengue fever is wide. It ranges from asymptomatic or mild infection to **serious manifestations** such as dengue hemorrhagic fever, dengue shock syndrome and multiorgan failure. One of the **rarely reported** serious complication is **purpura fulminans**.

CASE REPORT

A 2-year-old male child was admitted to our hospital with a history of fever of 3 days duration, vomiting and altered sensorium for 1 day prior to admission. On admission, the child looked toxic, pale and had an evidence of gum bleeding. He was febrile with a temperature of 102°F. There was an evidence of impending shock with low volume pulse rate of 136 beats/min, capillary refill time of 4 s and systolic blood pressure of 70 mmHg(by pulse). Child also had gasping breathing. Child was intubated and put on ventilator support. Child was started on inotropic support and fluids as per protocol. Patients investigations (Table 1) revealed a low platelet count with high hematocrit. On day 2 of hospitalization child started developing bluish discoloration of finger tips of hands and feet. It developed into gangrene(Figure 1). Child's D-Dimers were high and dengue serology was positive. Child was managed with intravenous fluids, fresh frozen plasma, inotropes and heparin. Child was extubated on day 5 of hospitalization and discharged on day 15 in a stable condition.

Investigations

Day	Hematocrit	WBC (per dl)	Platelet count (per dl)	AST (U/L)	ALT (U/L)	CPK	PTI/INR (seconds)	APTT/ RATIO (seconds)	D-dimers (ngm/ml)
1	41	3000	103000	118	78	5152	14.7/1.3	19/1.7	Not done
3	42.3	3600	900000	170	88	Not done	Not done	Not done	Not done
5	43	18000	20400	220	190	1200	No clot	No clot	>1000
10	32	24000	80000	108	102	450	14.5/1.2	18/1.4	330
14	30.8	16000	320000	68	78	220	Not done	Not done	Not done

CONCLUSION

Severe dengue fever may present with varied complication and purpura fulminans is one of a dreaded complication, which if managed timely can save a child.