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POSTER COMMUNICATION · PEDIATRICS

Neonatal tetanus: a preventable threat, about a case

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English version of a poster presented in French.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Le tétanos néonatal est une infection grave mais évitable, fréquente dans les pays en développement.
2. La prévention repose sur la vaccination maternelle, l'accouchement médicalisé et l'hygiène des soins du cordon ombilical.
3. Malgré une prise en charge lourde, la mortalité reste élevée sans mesures préventives adéquates.

ABSTRACT

Introduction. Neonatal tetanus is a severe infection caused by Clostridium tetani, with neurological tropism, leading to significant morbidity and mortality in newborns in developing countries. The most frequent cause is the use of non-sterile instruments during umbilical cord clamping or the application of traditional medicines without adequate sterilization. This observation illustrates the clinical, therapeutic, prognostic, and preventive aspects of neonatal tetanus.

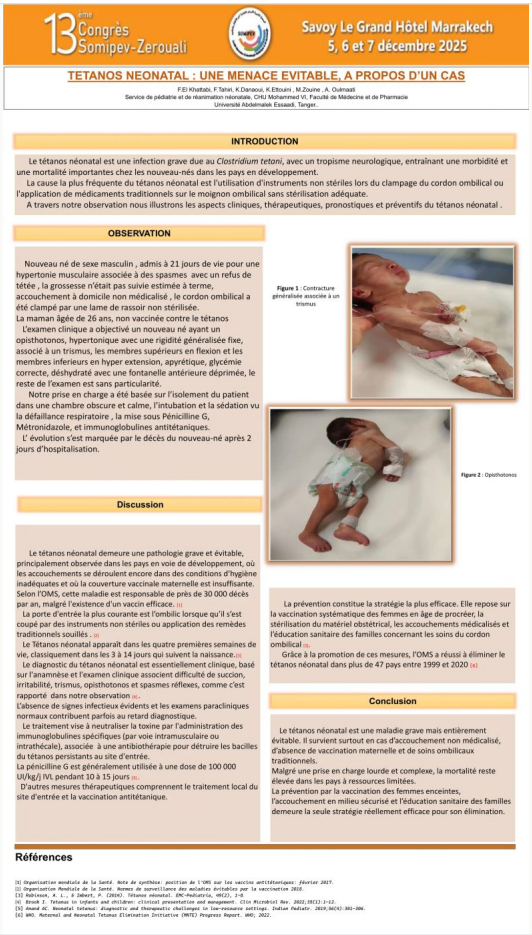
Materials and methods. Clinical observation of a male newborn admitted at 21 days of life with muscle hypertonia, spasms, feeding refusal, home delivery without medical assistance, umbilical cord clamped with a non-sterile razor blade, and a mother not vaccinated against tetanus. Management included isolation, intubation, sedation, antibiotic therapy (Penicillin G, Metronidazole), and antitetanic immunoglobulins.

Results. The newborn presented with opisthotonos, generalized rigidity, trismus, dehydration, and died after 2 days of hospitalization despite intensive care.

Conclusion. Neonatal tetanus is a severe but preventable disease, mainly occurring in cases of non-medicalized delivery, lack of maternal vaccination, and traditional umbilical care. Prevention through maternal vaccination, safe delivery, and health education is the only effective strategy for its elimination.

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POSTER



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