**Old World Meets Modern-Day Scurvy: An Unusual Cause of Limping and Weakness in the ED**

Aznah Ahamed1 , Hani Syamimi Hamzah, Muhammad Khidir Mohd Kamil.1

*1Emergency and Trauma Department, Teluk Intan, Hospital, Perak*

**Introduction**

Scurvy is a nutritional disease that can manifest with complications of collagen defects caused by a deficiency of ascorbic acid. In the modern world, this condition has become extremely rare and may mimic other diseases, resulting in delayed diagnosis and unnecessary workups.

**Case description**

An 11-year-old boy, presented to the emergency department (ED) with a two-week history of worsening pain and numbness of bilateral lower extremities associated with an inability to weight bear. He had knee bruises when he accidentally fell. Of note, he had seen a dentist for gum bleeding and overgrowth, who treated him for pyogenic granuloma and plaque hyperplasia. The child consumed a strict diet based on rice and chicken, with complete avoidance of fruit and vegetables. On examination, the child demonstrated an antalgic gait with intact power and sensation for the upper and lower limbs. His right knee was bruised and mildly swollen. The dental examination revealed gingival hyperplasia and evidence of clotted blood on his gums. Pertinent admission labs revealed an iron deficiency anaemia with haemoglobin of 9.9 g/dl, raised c-reactive protein of 41.9 mg/L, and prolonged thromboplastin time of 44.5 s. Scurvy due to a strict diet was highly suspected, and the patient was admitted to the ward. However, plasma vitamin C was not measured because it was not available in our hospital. Therefore, oral vitamin C and ferrous fumarate were initiated for the patient. Intriguingly, his pain and numbness of the bilateral lower extremities improved gradually. Two weeks later, his gum hyperplasia was completely resolved.

**Discussion**

Scurvy has myriad presentations, with the most common being the musculoskeletal system in 80% of cases. In children, pseudo-paralysis and limping gait may occur because of swelling and bleeding of soft tissues or joints, mimicking septic arthritis. Dermatological manifestations include ecchymosis, petechiae, and perifollicular haemorrhages. Hypovitaminosis C also results in collagen alterations and stomatological deformations, including tooth loss, vascular fragility that causes bleeding and bruising, and an increased risk of periodontal inflammation and infection leading to gingival overgrowth, as seen in this case.

**Conclusion**

Scurvy is a rare disease with a lack of specific clinical manifestations, and physicians should be aware of the diagnosis, as prompt recognition and timely treatment with ascorbic acid are crucial to avoiding life-threatening complications.

**Keywords**: Scurvy, hypovitaminosis C , pediatric.