

# NORMAL ANATOMIC VARIANTS OF THE NEW BORN

By

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Newborn babies often present with conditions which are variations from normal but which cannot be labelled as abnormal. These conditions often cause undue anxiety to the parents: (1) Since obstetricians are often the first ones to encounter them, it will be pertinent to know the normal anatomic variants (NAV) of the new born so that the parents can be reassured about the benign nature of the condition. The present report reviews NAV of newborn as seen at our hospital.

## Material and Methods

A total of 350 consecutively born babies were examined within 24 hours of birth and results were recorded on a pre-designed proforma.

Milia were examined in terms of site of distribution, size, colour, nature and type of lesion and day of disappearance. Same points were noted for Epstein's

pearls. Mongolian spots and telangiectasia were studied for site, size, shape, colour, number and change in appearance. Phimosi and erythema toxicum were the other conditions to be examined.

## Results

The profile of study group is shown in Table I while the incidence of NAV is shown in Table II.

Milia were seen in 78% of the newborns, their size ranging from 1 to 7 mm and colour varying from creamy to yellow. Most commonly, they were seen on tip of nose (83%), alae nasi (69%), chin (17%), lips (11%) and philtrum (4%). The time of disappearance was 3-4 days in most cases.

Epstein's pearls were round or oval inclusion cysts seen in 64% of babies. Most commonly they were situated along the median raphae (59%), both sides of the

TABLE I  
Showing Profile of Study Group

Birth weight (gms)	Cases		Total
	M	F	
2000	30 (52.63)	27 (47.36)	57 (16.28)
2000-2500	67 (60.36)	44 (39.63)	111 (31.71)
2500	99 (54.39)	83 (45.60)	182 (52.00)
Total	196 (56.00)	154 (44.00)	350 (100.0)

Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

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raphae (27%) or along one side of raphae (14%).

Mongolian spots were seen in 29% of

TABLE II

Showing the Incidence of NAV of Newborn

NAV	N 9 (350)
Milia	274 (78.28)
Epstein's pearls	223 (63.71)
Mongolian spot	101 (28.85)
Phimosis	13 (3.71)
Erythema toxicum	99 (28.28)
Telangiectasia	113 (32.28)

Figures in parenthesis are percentages.

newborns. Commonly, they were seen on sacrogluteal region (54%) and shoulders (29%). Extensor surfaces of limbs were predominantly involved. They were of irregular shape with borders blending with adjoining skin. Colour was blue gray in most of the cases.

Telangiectasia were seen in 32% of the babies. Common sites were eyelids (47%), neck (31%) and trunk (21%). Phimosis was detected in 3.7% and erythema toxicum in 28% of the babies.

### Discussion

The knowledge of NAV of new borns is important from many aspects. Without the knowledge of 'normal', the distinction of normal from abnormal is not possible. It is also important that serious treatable conditions are not dismissed as 'normal'.

Very few reports have appeared in the literature regarding the NAV of newborns (2, 3). Our results are comparable with those described in standard pediatric texts.

Most of these conditions are benign and do not need any treatment yet are important to be known to prevent unnecessary therapeutic intervention.

### References

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