

## Phocomelia due to oral contraceptives - A Case Report

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Mrs. M.D., 25 F, G3, P2, A0 was admitted on 27.8.98 in S.G.T.B. Hospital, Amritsar with the chief complaints of amenorrhoea 8 months and 22 days and labour pains with history of previous 2 LSCS.

On examination patient was thin built, short statured G.C. fair, pulse 88/mt. Blood pressure 120/70 mmHg.

Per abdomen examination: Fundal height - FT, Breech presentation, FHS present.

P. V examination: 3 cms dilated, 50% effaced, bag of membranes present, presenting part high up.

Investigations: Hb. 9.3 gm%, BT 1'35", CT 4'20", A Rh +ve, VDRL - Negative HIV -ve, Fasting blood sugar - 90mg%.



Fig 1

An emergency LSCS was done under spinal anaesthesia and a living female baby was delivered as breech with severe limb reduction defects (Fig. 1). Child was otherwise healthy and cried immediately after birth. Uterus sutured in layers. Bilateral tubal ligation done. Abdomen closed in layers. Examination of the fetus revealed no other gross foetal abnormality apart from limb reduction defects. Lower limbs were almost completely absent with only small knobs attached to buttocks. Upper limbs were present only upto upper arm with small knobs attached to the left upper limb. No other malformation of CVS and CNS could be detected.

**Obstetrical History :** 2 living male normal children delivered by LSCS, 1<sup>st</sup> because of CPD and 2<sup>nd</sup> because of transverse lie.

**Past history :** Patient gave history of taking oral contraceptives for about 2 months in the first trimester. She started taking OC on the advice of some RMP in her village at Gharwal when she missed her periods. There was no history of intake of any other drug or any exposure to radiation during this period. When amenorrhoea persisted and she started having other symptoms of pregnancy, pregnancy test was done which was positive. Then she stopped taking oral contraceptives. She had USG done at 16 weeks which missed this gross fetal malformation. It is presumed that limb reduction defect was because of oral contraceptives which are known to cause limb deformities following accidental conception during pill taking period or soon after their withdrawal.