



CASE STUDY

PERIODONTAL DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH MARFANS SYNDROME

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ABSTRACT

Marfans syndrome is the most common dominant autosomic genetic disorder of the connective tissue. This pathology's diagnosis is mainly based on physical characteristics. Herein, the authors' present report of a case of Marfans syndrome in which patient presented with bone loss involving seven teeth which was diagnosed as periodontitis in Marfans syndrome. This case reports confirms the hypothesis that connective tissue disorders increased susceptibility to periodontal breakdown.

Key words:

Bone loss, Periodontitis,
Connective tissue disorders.

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INTRODUCTION

Marfan Syndrome (MS) was firstly described by the pediatrician *Antoine Bernard-Jean Marfan* who reported an out of proportioned length of the lower limbs and fingers (Shirley et al., 2009). Marfan syndrome is the most common inherited connective tissue disorder, with a reported incidence of 1 in 10,000 individuals and equal distribution between the sexes (Dietz et al., 1991). It is caused by an autosomal dominant mutation in the gene encoding fibrillin (FBN1, chromosome 15q15) a glycoprotein that is an integral part of the connective tissue in the body (ligaments, blood vessel, eye lenses) (Pyeritz, 1997). It has been described that the normal fibrillin inhibits the growth of the long bones and elastic fibers, through its tension control. As fibrillin being altered, an exaggerated bone overgrowth is produced. (Voermans et al., 2009) MS is a multi-systemic disorder with typical manifestations which affect the skeletal, cardiovascular and ocular systems. Skeletal manifestations are the cardinal signs of Marfan syndrome and usually gain the attention of a physician. The most common features include tall stature with the lower segment of the body greater than the upper segment and long, slender limbs, or

dolichostenomelia; thin body habitus with increased arm span-to-height ratio; long, slender fingers, or arachnodactyly, deformities of the chest, such as pectus carinatum or pectus excavatum; scoliosis; and highly arched palate with crowded teeth and dental malocclusion. Other less common manifestations include hypermobility of joints, flat foot (pes planus), reduced extension of elbows (< 170 degrees), and elongated face (dolichocephalia). (Ammash et al., 2008; Umamahesh et al., 2006) Cardiovascular manifestations are the most serious complications and determine the prognosis and survival in Marfan syndrome. Abnormalities include aortic root dilatation, aortic regurgitation, aortic dissection, and aortic aneurysm, which most commonly involves the ascending aorta but can involve the descending aorta. The rate of aortic root dilatation is unpredictable and usually requires surgery when it measures more than 50 mm. Mitral valve prolapse can also occur. Although cardiovascular abnormalities typically appear late, they can occur during childhood. (Grimes et al., 2004) Ectopia lentis (subluxation of lens) is a hallmark feature of Marfan syndrome and is present in approximately 60% to 80% of patients. Ectopia lentis is usually bilateral, symmetrical, and upward. The diagnosis can be made by looking for iridodonesis (tremor of iris), phacodonesis (abnormal movement of lens), and a deep anterior chamber in the non-

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dilated eye. The dislocation may be complete, with the lens floating free within the vitreous cavity. Other nonspecific ocular features of Marfans syndrome include myopia, elongated eye, flat cornea, and retinal detachment. (Fuchs, 1997)

Case report

A 26 year old woman reported to the outpatient department of Periodontics, St. Joseph Dental College, Eluru with a chief complaint of swollen gums in relation to lower front teeth region. Medical history revealed mitral valve prolapse.

On general physical examination an ectomorphic (tall and lean) patient with disproportionate height (lower segment of the body greater than the upper segment) (Fig.1a) presented with dolichostenomelia (Fig.1a) arachnodactyly (Fig.1b, 1c) and ectopia lentis (Fig.1d). Hyperextension ability of the joints was noticed. Patient presented with positive wrist sign (Fig.1d) and Steinberg sign (Fig.1e). Intraoral examination revealed a high arched and narrow palate (Fig.2a). Generalized gingival inflammation with profuse bleeding on probing was noted. 3mm pockets were present i.r.t maxillary right and left upper teeth and mandibular molars bilaterally; FDI tooth number: 12,13,16, 22,23,26,36,46 (Fig.2b,2c). 4mm pockets were seen in mandibular anterior teeth (Fig.2d).

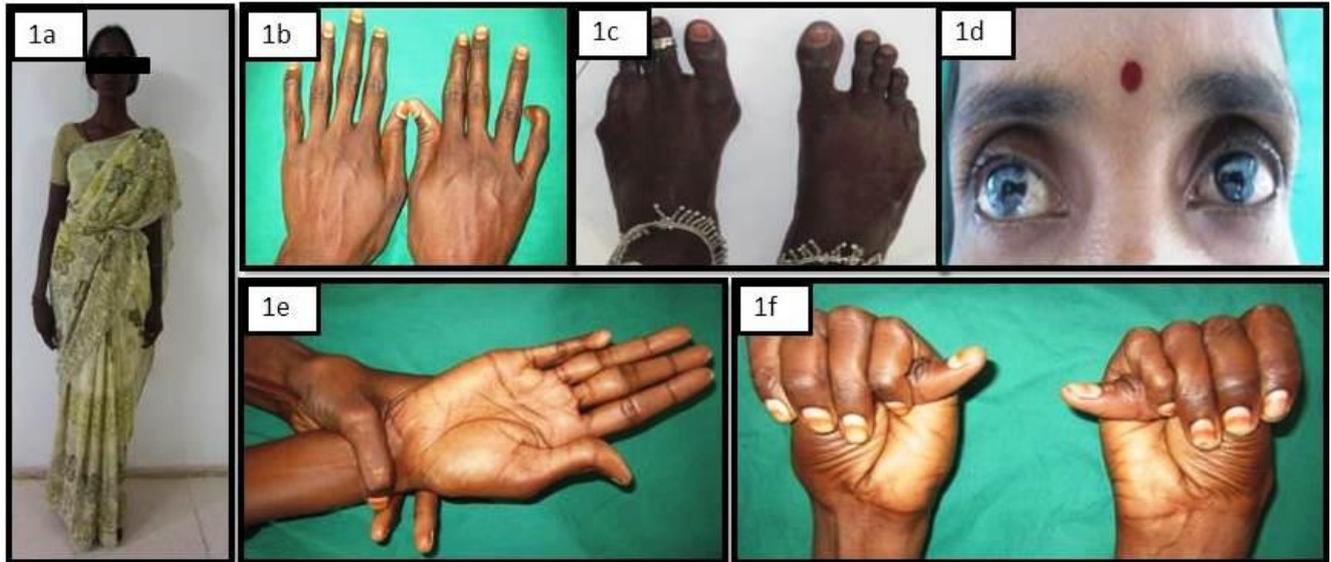


Fig.1.

1a: tall n slender built with lower body segment longer than the upper. Note the elongated face

1b, 1c: spiderlike fingers of hands and toes

1d: ectopia lentis

1e: positive wrist or Walker's sign (The distal phalange of the first and fifth fingers of the hand overlap when wrapped around the opposite wrist)

1f: positive thumb or Steinberg sign (The thumb projects beyond the ulnar border while completely opposed within the clenched Hand)



Fig.2

2a: narrow and high arched palate

2b, 2c: gingivitis with 3mm pockets

2d: 4mm deep pockets in mandibular anterior teeth

2e: Panoramic radiograph demonstrated generalized bone loss

2f: Follow up of the patient after non-surgical periodontal treatment

Based on the presence of clinical signs and symptoms and Berlins criteria, the patient was diagnosed with Marfans syndrome and subjected to panoramic radiography to investigate the severity of bone loss. On examination of OPG bone loss was seen in relation to tooth number: 12,22,16,26,36 and46 (Fig.2e). Thus, final diagnosis of periodontitis with Marfans syndrome was made and treatment was planned. Taking into consideration the cardiac pathology of the patient, it is imperative that preceding the performance of periodontal treatment, antibiotic prophylaxis by means of the intake of 2 grams of Amoxicillin one hour prior to the procedure is given. Non-surgical periodontal therapy was performed to the patient (Fig.2f).

DISCUSSION

Marfan syndrome is caused by mutations in the *FBN1* gene on chromosome 15, which encodes the glycoprotein fibrillin-1, a component of the extracellular matrix. Fibrillin-1 protein is essential for the proper formation of the extracellular matrix, including the biogenesis and maintenance of elastic fibers. Elastin fibers are found throughout the body, but are particularly abundant in the aorta, ligaments and the ciliary zonules of the eye, these areas are among the worst affected (Sakai *et al.*, 1986). In this case report the patient has periodontal break down and gingival enlargement. Inherited abnormalities in extra cellular matrix may confer increased susceptibility to periodontal breakdown (Tornos, 2002). This case reports confirms the hypothesis that connective tissue disorders increased susceptibility to periodontal breakdown.

Conclusion

This case report is an excellent example of careful history taking and thorough examination of the patient. Although the patient presented with swollen gums but the incidental findings as elicited by the vigilant investigators led to the diagnosis of a rare syndrome.

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