

World Journal of *Clinical Cases*

World J Clin Cases 2020 September 26; 8(18): 3920-4279



Contents

Semimonthly Volume 8 Number 18 September 26, 2020

OPINION REVIEW

- 3920** Special features of SARS-CoV2 in daily practice
Charitos IA, Ballini A, Bottalico L, Cantore S, Passarelli PC, Inchingolo F, D'Addona A, Santacroce L

EVIDENCE REVIEW

- 3934** Gastrointestinal insights during the COVID-19 epidemic
Nie K, Yang YY, Deng MZ, Wang XY

REVIEW

- 3942** From infections to autoimmunity: Diagnostic challenges in common variable immunodeficiency
Więsik-Szewczyk E, Jahnz-Różyk K
- 3956** One disease, many faces-typical and atypical presentations of SARS-CoV-2 infection-related COVID-19 disease
Philips CA, Mohan N, Ahamed R, Kumbar S, Rajesh S, George T, Mohanan M, Augustine P

MINIREVIEWS

- 3971** Application of artificial neural networks in detection and diagnosis of gastrointestinal and liver tumors
Mao WB, Lyu JY, Vaishnani DK, Lyu YM, Gong W, Xue XL, Shentu YP, Ma J
- 3978** Hepatic epithelioid hemangioendothelioma: Update on diagnosis and therapy
Kou K, Chen YG, Zhou JP, Sun XD, Sun DW, Li SX, Lv GY

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Clinical and Translational Research

- 3988** *Streptococcus agalactiae*: Identification methods, antimicrobial susceptibility, and resistance genes in pregnant women
Santana FAF, de Oliveira TVL, Filho MBDS, da Silva LSC, de Brito BB, de Melo FF, Souza CL, Marques LM, Oliveira MV
- 3999** Twelve-month evaluation of the atraumatic restorative treatment approach for class III restorations: An interventional study
Shivanna MM, Ganesh S, Khanagar SB, Naik S, Divakar DD, Al-Kheraif AA, Jhugroo C

Case Control Study

- 4010** Effects of different doses of metformin on bone mineral density and bone metabolism in elderly male patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus
Wang LX, Wang GY, Su N, Ma J, Li YK

- 4017** Relationship between granulomatous lobular mastitis and methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase gene polymorphism

Lei QR, Yang X, Miao CM, Wang JC, Yang Y

Retrospective Cohort Study

- 4022** First-line chemotherapy in very elderly patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer: Gemcitabine monotherapy vs combination chemotherapy

Han SY, Kim DU, Seol YM, Kim S, Lee NK, Hong SB, Seo HI

Retrospective Study

- 4034** Pre- and intraoperative predictors of acute kidney injury after liver transplantation

Mrzljak A, Franusic L, Pavicic-Saric J, Kelava T, Jurekovic Z, Kocman B, Mikulic D, Budimir-Bekan I, Knotek M

- 4043** Clinical value of needleless sling in treatment of female stress urinary incontinence

Chen YG, Zhang YG, Zhang W, Li X, Wang X

- 4051** Intratympanic dexamethasone injection for sudden sensorineural hearing loss in pregnancy

Lyu YL, Zeng FQ, Zhou Z, Yan M, Zhang W, Liu M, Ke ZY

- 4059** Research on the effect of health care integration on patients' negative emotions and satisfaction with lung cancer nursing activities

Long FJ, Chen H, Wang YF, He LM, Chen L, Liang ZB, Chen YN, Gong XH

- 4067** Comparison between computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging in clinical diagnosis and treatment of tibial platform fractures

Liu XD, Wang HB, Zhang TC, Wan Y, Zhang CZ

SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

- 4075** Primary sclerosing cholangitis and autoimmune hepatitis overlap syndrome associated with inflammatory bowel disease: A case report and systematic review

Ballotin VR, Bigarella LG, Riva F, Onzi G, Balbinot RA, Balbinot SS, Soldera J

CASE REPORT

- 4094** Epidermolytic acanthoma: A case report

Ginsberg AS, Rajagopalan A, Terlizzi JP

- 4100** Management of pembrolizumab-induced steroid refractory mucositis with infliximab: A case report

Dang H, Sun J, Wang G, Renner G, Layfield L, Hilli J

- 4109** Small bowel obstruction caused by a bezoar following an adult simultaneous liver-kidney transplantation: A case report

Pan G, Kim RD, Campsen J, Rofaiel G

- 4114** Laparoscopic resection of primary retroperitoneal schwannoma: A case report

Ribeiro Jr MAF, Elias YGB, Augusto SDS, Nêder PR, Costa CT, Mauricio AD, Sampaio AP, Fonseca AZ

- 4122** Sweet syndrome as a paraneoplastic manifestation of cholangiocarcinoma: A case report
Lemaire CC, Portilho ALC, Pinheiro LV, Vivas RA, Britto M, Montenegro M, Rodrigues LFDF, Arruda S, Lyra AC, Cavalcante LN
- 4128** Multidisciplinary approach to suspected sudden unexpected infant death caused by milk-aspiration: A case report
Maiese A, La Russa R, Arcangeli M, Volonnino G, De Matteis A, Frati P, Fineschi V
- 4135** Stress fractures in uncommon location: Six case reports and review of the literature
Ficek K, Cyganik P, Rajca J, Racut A, Kiełtyka A, Grzywocz J, Hajduk G
- 4151** Celiac disease and Sjögren's syndrome: A case report and review of literature
Balaban DV, Mihai A, Dima A, Popp A, Jinga M, Jurcut C
- 4162** Nonasthmatic eosinophilic bronchitis in an ulcerative colitis patient – a putative adverse reaction to mesalazine: A case report and review of literature
Cernomaz AT, Bordeianu G, Terinte C, Gavrilescu CM
- 4169** Insulinoma presenting with postprandial hypoglycemia and a low body mass index: A case report
Přidavková D, Samoš M, Kyčina R, Adamicová K, Kalman M, Belicová M, Mokáň M
- 4177** Neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy for locally advanced gastric cancer with bulky lymph node metastasis: Five case reports
Nomura E, Kayano H, Machida T, Izumi H, Yamamoto S, Sugawara A, Mukai M, Hasebe T
- 4186** Unilateral pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis as a rare form of idiopathic interstitial pneumonia: A case report
Lee JH, Jang HJ, Park JH, Kim HK, Lee S, Kim JY, Kim SH
- 4193** Superior mesenteric vein thrombosis induced by influenza infection: A case report
Oh GM, Jung K, Kim JH, Kim SE, Moon W, Park MI, Park SJ
- 4200** Mucinous adenocarcinoma of the buttock associated with hidradenitis: A case report
Kim SJ, Kim TG, Gu MJ, Kim S
- 4207** TFE3-expressing malignant perivascular epithelioid cell tumor of the mesentery: A case report and review of literature
Kim NI, Lee JS, Choi YD, Ju UC, Nam JH
- 4215** Robotic surgery in giant multilocular cystadenoma of the prostate: A rare case report
Fan LW, Chang YH, Shao IH, Wu KF, Pang ST
- 4223** Multiple recurrent neurofibromas in the abdominal wall: A case report
Zhao XF, Shen YM, Chen J
- 4228** Mine disaster survivor's pelvic floor hernia treated with laparoscopic surgery and a perineal approach: A case report
Chen K, Lan YZ, Li J, Xiang YY, Zeng DZ

- 4234** Successful treatment of encrusted cystitis: A case report and review of literature
Fu JG, Xie KJ
- 4245** Massive pulmonary haemorrhage due to severe trauma treated with repeated alveolar lavage combined with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation: A case report
Zhang BY, Chen XC, You Y, Chen M, Yu WK
- 4252** Gitelman syndrome caused by a rare homozygous mutation in the *SLC12A3* gene: A case report
Yu RZ, Chen MS
- 4259** Arterial embolism caused by a peripherally inserted central catheter in a very premature infant: A case report and literature review
Huang YF, Hu YL, Wan XL, Cheng H, Wu YH, Yang XY, Shi J
- 4266** Left bundle branch pacing with optimization of cardiac resynchronization treatment: A case report
Zhang DH, Lang MJ, Tang G, Chen XX, Li HF
- 4272** Lymphoplasmacyte-rich meningioma with atypical cystic-solid feature: A case report
Gu KC, Wan Y, Xiang L, Wang LS, Yao WJ

ABOUT COVER

Editorial board member of *World Journal of Clinical Cases*, Dr. Li is a Professor at the Nanjing University Medical School in Nanjing, China. Having received his Bachelor's degree from Xuzhou Medical College in 1997, Dr. Li undertook his postgraduate training first at Nanjing Medical University, receiving his Master's degree in 2004, and then at Fudan University, receiving his PhD in 2007. He advanced to Chief Physician in the Department of Anesthesiology at The Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing University Medical School in 2017 and has held the position since. His ongoing research interests involve ultrasound (transthoracic echo and transesophageal echo) in clinical anesthesia and ultrasound-guided limb and trunk nerve block in postoperative pain management. (L-Editor: Filipodia)

AIMS AND SCOPE

The primary aim of *World Journal of Clinical Cases* (*WJCC*, *World J Clin Cases*) is to provide scholars and readers from various fields of clinical medicine with a platform to publish high-quality clinical research articles and communicate their research findings online.

WJCC mainly publishes articles reporting research results and findings obtained in the field of clinical medicine and covering a wide range of topics, including case control studies, retrospective cohort studies, retrospective studies, clinical trials studies, observational studies, prospective studies, randomized controlled trials, randomized clinical trials, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, and case reports.

INDEXING/ABSTRACTING

The *WJCC* is now indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded (also known as SciSearch®), Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition, PubMed, and PubMed Central. The 2020 Edition of Journal Citation Reports® cites the 2019 impact factor (IF) for *WJCC* as 1.013; IF without journal self cites: 0.991; Ranking: 120 among 165 journals in medicine, general and internal; and Quartile category: Q3.

RESPONSIBLE EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE

Production Editor: Ji-Hong Liu; Production Department Director: Xiang Li; Editorial Office Director: Jin-Lai Wang.

NAME OF JOURNAL

World Journal of Clinical Cases

ISSN

ISSN 2307-8960 (online)

LAUNCH DATE

April 16, 2013

FREQUENCY

Semimonthly

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Dennis A Bloomfield, Sandro Vento, Bao-Gan Peng

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/editorialboard.htm>

PUBLICATION DATE

September 26, 2020

COPYRIGHT

© 2020 Baishideng Publishing Group Inc

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/204>

GUIDELINES FOR ETHICS DOCUMENTS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/287>

GUIDELINES FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>

PUBLICATION ETHICS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/288>

PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/208>

ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/242>

STEPS FOR SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS

<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/GerInfo/239>

ONLINE SUBMISSION

<https://www.f6publishing.com>

Multidisciplinary approach to suspected sudden unexpected infant death caused by milk-aspiration: A case report

Aniello Maiese, Raffaele La Russa, Mauro Arcangeli, Gianpietro Volonnino, Alessandra De Matteis, Paola Frati, Vittorio Fineschi

ORCID number: Aniello Maiese 0000-0002-0529-4349; Raffaele La Russa 0000-0003-3433-7122; Mauro Arcangeli 0000-0002-2665-7372; Gianpietro Volonnino 0000-0002-3178-0797; Alessandra De Matteis 0000-0003-4504-4923; Paola Frati 0000-0002-0358-7965; Vittorio Fineschi 0000-0002-1686-3236.

Author contributions: Maiese A performed the majority of experiments and wrote the manuscript; La Russa R and Fineschi V designed the study and corrected the manuscript; Arcangeli M, Volonnino G and De Matteis A participated to the collection of the human material; Frati P is the guarantor; Frati P and Fineschi V served as scientific advisor and participate to the collection of human material.

Informed consent statement: Informed consent was granted by the Judicial Authority governing specific information included herein.

Conflict-of-interest statement: The authors have no competing interests to declare.

CARE Checklist (2016) statement: The authors have read the CARE Checklist, and the manuscript was prepared and revised according to the CARE Checklist (2016).

Aniello Maiese, Department of Surgical Pathology, Medical, Molecular and Critical Area, Institute of Legal Medicine, University of Pisa, Pisa 56126, Italy

Raffaele La Russa, Gianpietro Volonnino, Alessandra De Matteis, Vittorio Fineschi, Department of Anatomy, Histology, Forensic Medicine and Orthopedics, Sapienza University of Roma, Roma 00185, Italy

Mauro Arcangeli, Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences, University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila 67100, Italy

Paola Frati, Department SAIMLAL, Sapienza University of Roma, Roma 00185, Italy

Corresponding author: Vittorio Fineschi, MD, PhD, Director, Full Professor, Department of Anatomy, Histology, Forensic Medicine and Orthopedics, Sapienza University of Roma, Viale Regina Elena 336, Roma 00185, Italy. vfinesc@tin.it

Abstract

BACKGROUND

The term sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) is not always properly invoked. It refers to a broad range of conditions that sometimes defy classification. There is not only a strong emotional impact on the family, but such cases are also quite complex. Underlying causes may be multiple, not always readily apparent, and have potential repercussions, especially in terms of forensics.

CASE SUMMARY

A 5-month-old male baby was pronounced dead following acute lung failure and cardiopulmonary arrest. The parents had immediately rushed their child to the hospital, stating the baby was found prone and not breathing. Total-body postmortem computed tomography (PMCT) was performed, revealing a hypodense material of indeterminate nature within the main airways and areas of ground-glass parenchymal change. At autopsy, the respiratory tract mucosa appeared edematous and was coated with a whitish stringy material. There was widespread airspace reduction due to parenchymal collapse. Alveolar sacs and bronchial openings contained abundant amorphous material admixed with white blood cells. Immunohistochemical studies were performed, targeting CD15, CD68, and alpha-lactalbumin. Ultimately, the focus was on alpha-lactalbumin (milk protein), which showed marked immunopositivity within alveolar spaces. Cytoplasmic staining of macrophages was also particularly prominent.

Open-Access: This article is an open-access article that was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Manuscript source: Invited manuscript

Received: April 14, 2020

Peer-review started: April 14, 2020

First decision: July 25, 2020

Revised: August 2, 2020

Accepted: August 25, 2020

Article in press: August 25, 2020

Published online: September 26, 2020

P-Reviewer: Jeong KY, Pandey A

S-Editor: Yan JP

L-Editor: A

P-Editor: Li JH



CONCLUSION

Postmortem investigations are thus essential to identify causes of death and surrounding circumstances. PMCT is a useful tool in this setting, given the frequent dearth of autopsy findings and ambiguity as to cause of death in SUID cases. These findings, later confirmed by immunohistochemical investigations, were indicative of active pneumonia due to aspirated milk. The present account illustrates the importance a broad diagnostic approach to SUID in cases of forensic concern. PMCT is a very valuable aid in cases of forensic interest, as it can provide useful information in all those situations in which the cause of death is uncertain or there are no suggestive dynamics or lesions.

Key Words: Sudden unexpected infant death; Aspiration pneumonia; Postmortem computed tomography; Case report; Diagnosis; Immunohistochemistry

©The Author(s) 2020. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Core Tip: The most frequent causes of pulmonary aspiration were caused by milk (31.8%). Predisposing factors include any condition that alters the state of consciousness or creates dysfunction of deglutition. In general, Gastric contents are related to aspiration pneumonia and present in the lungs of 30% to 40% of infants whose deaths are attributed to sudden infant death. The postmortem diagnosis of milk aspiration is a challenge for clinician and pathologist. In case of sudden unexpected infant death from milk aspiration a broad diagnostic approach is necessary for an identification of the cause of death. Postmortem computed tomography is a very valuable aid in cases of forensic interest, as it can provide useful information in all those situations in which the cause of death is uncertain or there are no suggestive dynamics or lesions.

Citation: Maiese A, La Russa R, Arcangeli M, Volonnino G, De Matteis A, Frati P, Fineschi V. Multidisciplinary approach to suspected sudden unexpected infant death caused by milk-aspiration: A case report. *World J Clin Cases* 2020; 8(18): 4128-4134

URL: <https://www.wjgnet.com/2307-8960/full/v8/i18/4128.htm>

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.12998/wjcc.v8.i18.4128>

INTRODUCTION

Sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) by definition encompasses all categories of such events. These cases are emotionally devastating to families and often are highly complex, involving multiple and frequently elusive causes with serious repercussions, especially the forensic ramifications. Although incorrectly invoked at times, a broad spectrum of conditions that are difficult to classify qualify as SUID^[1].

In guidelines published by confidential enquiry into stillbirths and deaths in infancy (CESDI)^[2], the criteria for SUID are as follows: (1) Unexpected death at autopsy; (2) Death during an acute not life-threatening illness; (3) Death within 24 h after acute illness in a previously healthy infant; (4) Death from occult conditions; or (5) Death due to external factors (*e.g.*, trauma or poisoning).

Based on the certainty of a named cause of death, SUID is categorized as I-III, where III indicates an established cause and IA denotes unexplained death, despite postmortem studies^[3]. However, comprehensive postmortem investigations (*i.e.*, death scene inspection, autopsy and pertinent biomedical diagnostics) are crucial in narrowing the field of inquiry substantially.

The scenario depicted herein illustrates how postmortem computed tomography (PMCT) and immunohistochemical (IHC) staining helped link an occurrence of SUID to aspiration pneumonia.

In particular, PMCT is a very valuable aid in cases of forensic interest, as it can provide useful information in all those situations in which the cause of death is uncertain or there are no suggestive dynamics or lesions.

CASE PRESENTATION

Chief complaints

A 5-month-old male baby was reportedly found prone and not breathing by the parents, who immediately rushed the child to the hospital.

History of present illness

On arrival, the infant was pronounced dead as a result of acute lung failure and cardiopulmonary arrest.

History of past illness

No previous disease to report in anamnesis.

Physical examination

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation had not been attempted.

Laboratory examinations

Post-mortem examination: Four days after death, the autopsy took place. The baby measured 60 cm in length and weighed 8 kg. No gross external abnormalities were detected. Internally, all major organs were normally placed and well developed. The Letulle technique was used, removing bodily contents en masse. Gross examination of the respiratory tract proceeded along posterior median axis, exposing edematous mucosal linings coated with whitish stringy material (Figure 1). The lungs were purplish in colour. After *en bloc* fixation, they appeared dense and congested.

Histological examination: Thoracic and abdominal organs were sampled for routine processing and haematoxylin-eosin (HE) staining. Sections of lung tissue showed marked congestion of alveolar septal capillaries, which were also engorged with white blood cells, and widespread loss of airspace was conspicuous due to parenchymal collapse. In macrophages, there was copious cytoplasmic retention of amorphous material. The same substance, admixed with white blood cells, resided in alveolar spaces and bronchial openings. All other organs were histologically intact. Ultimately, sections of lung were subjected to IHC staining, targeting CD15, CD68, and alpha-lactalbumin. Intense CD15 positivity of alveolar content and septal capillaries was observed, whereas strong CD68 positivity was visible throughout lung parenchyma. Marked alpha-lactalbumin positivity of the intra-alveolar substance was also evident, and cytoplasmic staining of macrophages was especially prominent (Figure 2).

Imaging examination

Total-body PMCT was subsequently performed. In the lungs, a hypodense material of indeterminate nature occupied the main airways bilaterally, from oropharynx to subsegmental bronchi; and ground-glass parenchymal changes were noted in areas (Figure 3).

FINAL DIAGNOSIS

Aspiration pneumonia due to milk aspiration.

TREATMENT

Unfortunately, physicians were unable to intervene even with resuscitation maneuvers as the death of patient was declared at the time of hospitalization.

OUTCOME AND FOLLOW UP

As previously discussed, the infant was declared dead upon admission to the hospital following a aspiration pneumonia from milk ingestion; final diagnosis was based on instrumental and immunohistochemical studies.

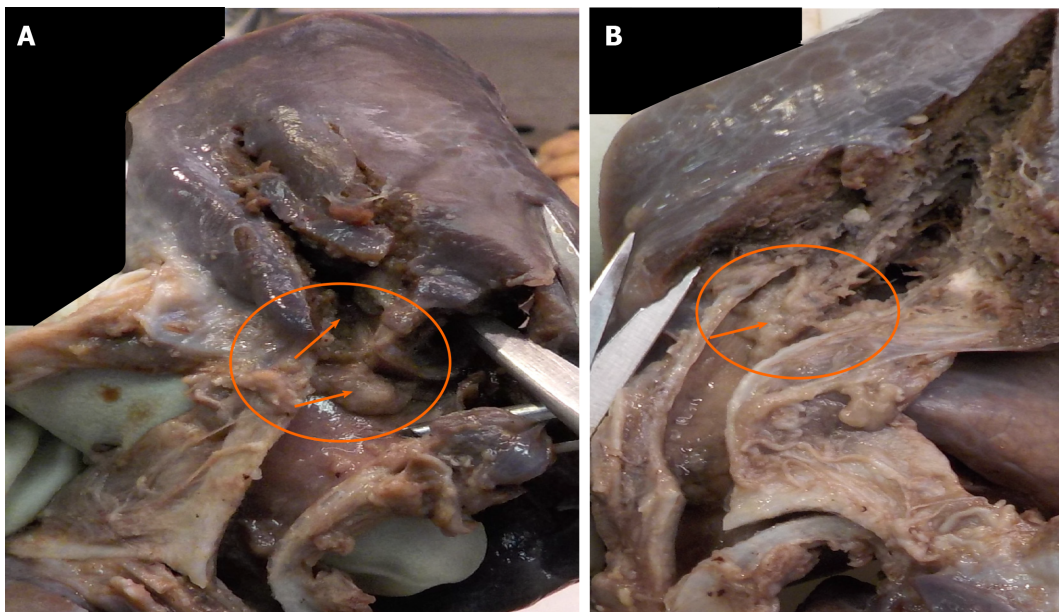


Figure 1 Gross examination of the respiratory tract: main bronchus (A, B) exposing edematous mucosal linings coated with whitish stringy material (orange arrows).

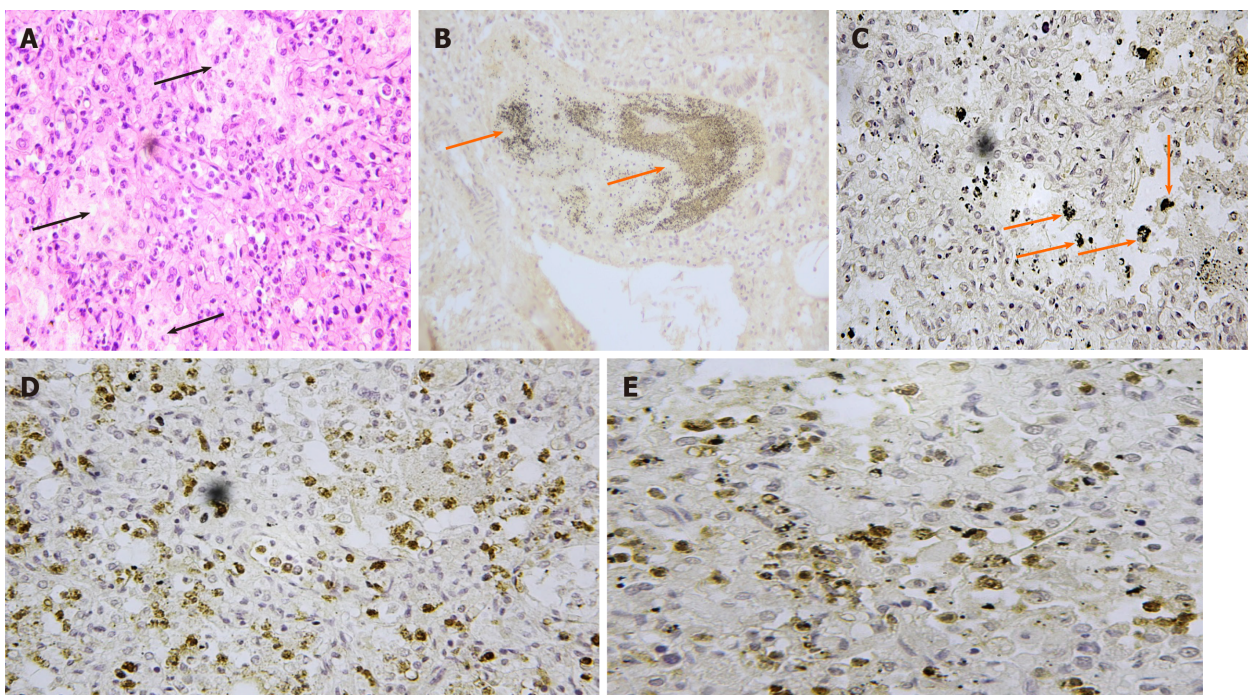


Figure 2 Results of histological examination. A: Lung tissue, marked congestion of alveolar septal capillaries, which were also engorged with white blood cells, and endo-alveolar incongruous material (black arrows) (haematoxylin-eosin, $\times 60$); B: A positive CD15 mantle of cells (orange arrows) was immersed in endobronchial incongruous material; C: Strong CD68 positivity was visible throughout lung parenchyma (orange arrows); D: Marked alpha-lactalbumin positivity of the intra-alveolar substance was also evident; E: Cytoplasmic staining of macrophages was especially prominent.

DISCUSSION

Aspiration pneumonia is incited by foreign materials, often of oral or gastric origin (saliva, food), that enter the bronchial tree^[4]. In general, Gastric contents is related to aspiration pneumonia and present in the lungs of 30% to 40% of infants whose deaths are attributed to sudden infant death^[5,6].

Predisposing factors include any condition that alters the state of consciousness or creates dysfunction of deglutition. Typically, sudden respiratory difficulties (acute dyspnea) and cough develop in conjunction with solid or liquid food intake or

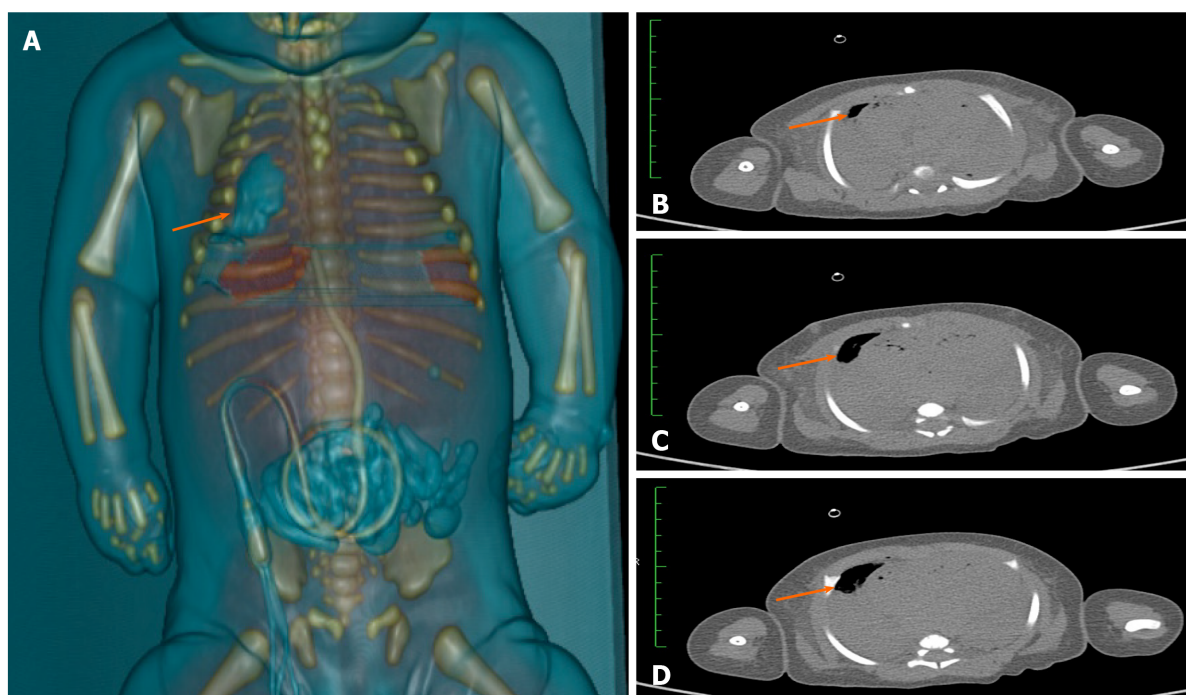


Figure 3 Results of imaging examination. A: Total-body Postmortem Computed Tomography: hypodense material of indeterminate nature occupied the main airways bilaterally, especially the right lung from oropharynx to subsegmental bronchi; B, C and D: The lungs had collapsed and only a part of the right lung (orange arrow) was expanded and ventilated (orange arrows).

regurgitation of gastric contents. The severity of symptoms depends on the nature and quantity of aspirated material. In some cases, cough is accompanied by pinkish and foamy or purulent sputum production. Tachycardia, high respiratory rate, fever, fatigue, myalgia, weight loss, and general malaise, may also ensue. Other consequences are diffuse end-expiratory wheezing, cyanosis, hypoxemia, pleuritic chest pain, bronchoconstriction, and acute pulmonary edema^[7,8].

In a study of Karim *et al*^[9], on 107 children with pulmonary aspiration, the most frequent causes of pulmonary aspiration were caused by milk (31.8%) and oral secretions (19.6%). Neurological disorders were present in 29% of children, 5.6% had asphyxiation at birth and 10% were premature.

To establish the diagnosis, details of a patient's clinical history (and risk factors) are essential and biomedical diagnostics are pivotal. Chest radiographs readily disclose parenchymal infiltrates, reflecting bodily positions at times of aspiration. In cases of suspected SUID, no distinctive histopathologic changes are encountered, only agonal phenomena, such as pulmonary edema. A comprehensive postmortem investigation is therefore mandatory, which in this instance called for assessing the death scene and its circumstances, tomographic imaging (PMCT) and IHC techniques^[10,11].

Because SUID events are often unwitnessed and lack autopsy evidence to explain cause of death, PMCT studies may be immensely productive. Computed tomography is likewise considered useful in the screening of unnatural death^[12,13]. Recently, the association between post-mortem magnetic resonance, post-mortem examination and related histological study of the foetus or newborn could help reduce the percentage of cases in which the cause of death remains unexplained. Lastly, it may allow a selective sampling of the organ in order to target histological investigations^[14].

Milk is a common gastric component of newborns, but its triggering of aspiration pneumonia is much debated. Many authors view the presence of milk in the lungs as a postmortem artifact, secondary to cardiopulmonary resuscitation^[15]. At autopsy, gastric content limited to distal lung segments (upper airways still clear) would indeed support their contention^[16]. Immunohistochemistry for milk components helps to demonstrate aspirated milk in lung sections.

The postmortem diagnosis of milk aspiration is a challenge for the forensic pathologist, as Moran *et al*^[17] outlined in 1953. To date, few post-mortem studies that evaluate the diagnostic usefulness of specific immunohistochemical assays in the diagnosis of milk aspiration as a cause of death have been published.

In 1986 Boulloche *et al*^[18], have studied of serum IgE assay in milk aspiration and the sudden infant death syndrome. In this study only the infants with a history of milk

aspiration had significantly raised global and specific IgE. Iwadata *et al*^[19-21], in three studies they examined 105 cases of aspiration pneumonia by immunostaining with anti-human α -lactalbumin antibody; milk aspiration was detected with immunohistochemical study in 40 cases. In other case reports, the need to carry out immunohistochemical assessments in case of histological examinations show a lot of amorphous material, suspect of aspirated milk^[22]. Experimental studies using a murine model have shown that the detection of aspirated milk in other organs except the lung would be clear evidence of intravital milk aspiration^[23,24].

This result indicates that some degree of milk aspiration is not rare in infant death cases and the need for immunohistochemical examinations for the diagnosis of death due to milk aspiration.

In our case infant succumbed to acute pulmonary insufficiency, prompting total-body PMCT. In the lungs, the main airways contained hypodense material and ground-glass parenchymal changes were present. No alterations were identified elsewhere, implicating the lungs solely as cause of death. The autopsy itself corroborated what was detected by PMCT. Airways of the infant displayed mucosal edema and contained whitish stringy material. IHC staining of CD15, CD68, and alpha-lactalbumin in samples of lung tissue also confirmed the suspicion of aspiration pneumonia. Both CD15 (neutrophil) and CD68 (macrophage) markers were strongly positive within alveoli and throughout lung parenchyma. These features were decisive, underscoring an active inflammatory process prior to death. We also targeted alpha-lactalbumin (milk protein), which proved markedly positive within alveolar and macrophage reservoirs, linking the pneumonia to aspiration of milk. Owing to combined use of PMCT and immunohistochemistry, a cause of death was conclusively determined in this case of SUID^[25].

CONCLUSION

Autopsies requested for SUID tend to be unproductive. In those cases where death can be attributable to numerous causes, PMCT may direct the clinician and the pathologist towards a specific etiology. In deaths from aspiration asphyxia, IHC staining is an essential step, helping to clarify the nature of aspirated material and confirm its presence within cellular infiltrates.

REFERENCES

- 1 **Krous HF.** Sudden unexpected death in infancy and the dilemma of defining the sudden infant death syndrome. *Curr Pediatr Rev* 2010; **6**: 5–12 [DOI: [10.2174/157339610791317205](https://doi.org/10.2174/157339610791317205)]
- 2 **Fleming PJ, Blair PSP, Bacon C, Berry PJ, editors.** Sudden unexpected deaths in infancy. The CESDI SUDI studies 1993–1996. London: The Stationary Office; 2000
- 3 **Blair PS, Byard RW, Fleming PJ.** Sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI): suggested classification and applications to facilitate research activity. *Forensic Sci Med Pathol* 2012; **8**: 312–315 [PMID: [22076788](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22076788/) DOI: [10.1007/s12024-011-9294-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12024-011-9294-x)]
- 4 **Byard RW, Beal SM.** Gastric aspiration and sleeping position in infancy and early childhood. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2000; **36**: 403–405 [PMID: [10940183](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10940183/) DOI: [10.1046/j.1440-1754.2000.00503.x](https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1440-1754.2000.00503.x)]
- 5 **Thach BT.** Sudden infant death syndrome: can gastroesophageal reflux cause sudden infant death? *Am J Med* 2000; **108** Suppl 4a: S144–S148 [PMID: [10718468](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10718468/) DOI: [10.1016/s0002-9343\(99\)00354-x](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0002-9343(99)00354-x)]
- 6 **Lanspa MJ, Jones BE, Brown SM, Dean NC.** Mortality, morbidity, and disease severity of patients with aspiration pneumonia. *J Hosp Med* 2013; **8**: 83–90 [PMID: [23184866](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23184866/) DOI: [10.1002/jhm.1996](https://doi.org/10.1002/jhm.1996)]
- 7 **Son YG, Shin J, Ryu HG.** Pneumonitis and pneumonia after aspiration. *J Dent Anesth Pain Med* 2017; **17**: 1–12 [PMID: [28879323](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28879323/) DOI: [10.17245/jdpm.2017.17.1.1](https://doi.org/10.17245/jdpm.2017.17.1.1)]
- 8 **Raghavendran K, Nemzek J, Napolitano LM, Knight PR.** Aspiration-induced lung injury. *Crit Care Med* 2011; **39**: 818–826 [PMID: [21263315](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21263315/) DOI: [10.1097/CCM.0b013e31820a856b](https://doi.org/10.1097/CCM.0b013e31820a856b)]
- 9 **Karim RM, Momin IA, Lalani II, Merchant SS, Sewani AA, Hassan BS, Mahmood N.** Aspiration pneumonia in pediatric age group: etiology, predisposing factors and clinical outcome. *J Pak Med Assoc* 1999; **49**: 105–108 [PMID: [10540543](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10540543/)]
- 10 **Bartusch O, Finkl M, Jaschinski U.** [Aspiration syndrome: epidemiology, pathophysiology, and therapy]. *Anaesthesist* 2008; **57**: 519–30; quiz 531–2 [PMID: [18437323](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18437323/) DOI: [10.1007/s00101-008-1348-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00101-008-1348-4)]
- 11 **Bennett T, Martin LJ, Heathfield LJ.** A retrospective study of death scene investigation practices for sudden unexpected death of infants (SUDI) in Cape Town, South Africa. *Forensic Sci Med Pathol* 2020; **16**: 49–56 [PMID: [31808133](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31808133/) DOI: [10.1007/s12024-019-00206-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12024-019-00206-2)]
- 12 **Hunt CE, Darnall RA, McEntire BL, Hyma BA.** Assigning cause for sudden unexpected infant death. *Forensic Sci Med Pathol* 2015; **11**: 283–288 [PMID: [25634430](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25634430/) DOI: [10.1007/s12024-014-9650-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12024-014-9650-8)]
- 13 **Byard RW.** The Autopsy and Pathology of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. In: Duncan JR, Byard RW, editors. SIDS Sudden Infant and Early Childhood Death: The Past, the Present and the Future. Duncan JR, Byard RW. Adelaide (AU): University of Adelaide Press: 2018 May. Chapter 24

- 14 **Vullo A**, Panebianco V, Cannavale G, Aromatario M, Cipolloni L, Frati P, Santurro A, Vullo F, Catalano C, Fineschi V. Post-mortem magnetic resonance foetal imaging: a study of morphological correlation with conventional autopsy and histopathological findings. *Radiol Med* 2016; **121**: 847-856 [10.1007/s11547-016-0672-z]
- 15 **van Rijn RR**, Beek EJ, van de Putte EM, Teeuw AH, Nikkels PGJ, Duijst WLJM, Nievelstein RA; Dutch NODO Group. The value of postmortem computed tomography in paediatric natural cause of death: a Dutch observational study. *Pediatr Radiol* 2017; **47**: 1514-1522 [PMID: 28681231 DOI: 10.1007/s00247-017-3911-0]
- 16 **Krous HF**, Masoumi H, Haas EA, Chadwick AE, Stanley C, Thach BT. Aspiration of gastric contents in sudden infant death syndrome without cardiopulmonary resuscitation. *J Pediatr* 2007; **150**: 241-246 [PMID: 17307537 DOI: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2006.12.012]
- 17 **MORAN TJ**. Milk-aspiration pneumonia in human and animal subjects. *AMA Arch Pathol* 1953; **55**: 286-301 [PMID: 13030048]
- 18 **Boulloche J**, Mallet E, Basuyau JP, Tayot P, Samson-Dollfus D. The value of serum IgE assay in milk aspiration and the sudden infant death syndrome. *Acta Paediatr Scand* 1986; **75**: 530-533 [PMID: 3751546 DOI: 10.1111/j.1651-2227.1986.tb10244.x]
- 19 **Iwade K**, Doy M, Ito Y. Screening of milk aspiration in 105 infant death cases by immunostaining with anti-human alpha-lactalbumin antibody. *Forensic Sci Int* 2001; **122**: 95-100 [PMID: 11672962 DOI: 10.1016/s0379-0738(01)00469-8]
- 20 **Iwade K**, Doy M, Nishimaki Y, Liang F, Takatori T, Hasekura H. Immunohistochemical examination of the lungs in infant death cases using antibodies against milk components. *Forensic Sci Int* 2000; **110**: 19-28 [PMID: 10802197 DOI: 10.1016/s0379-0738(99)00229-7]
- 21 **Iwade K**, Sakamoto N, Park SH, Doy M, Iwase H, Nagao M, Takatori T. Immunohistochemical detection of human milk components aspirated in lungs of an infant. *Forensic Sci Int* 1997; **90**: 77-84 [PMID: 9438367 DOI: 10.1016/s0379-0738(97)00152-7]
- 22 **Kibayashi K**, Iwade K, Shoji H. Milk aspiration in an infant during supine bottle feeding: a case report. *Med Sci Law* 2004; **44**: 272-275 [PMID: 15296253 DOI: 10.1258/rsmmsl.44.3.272]
- 23 **Nagai T**, Aoyagi M, Ochiai E, Sakai K, Maruyama-Maebashi K, Fukui K, Iwade K. Longitudinal evaluation of immunohistochemical findings of milk aspiration: an experimental study using a murine model. *Forensic Sci Int* 2011; **209**: 183-185 [PMID: 21333474 DOI: 10.1016/j.forsciint.2011.01.026]
- 24 **Iwade K**, Aoyagi M, Sakai K, Ochiai E, Abe S, Maebashi K, Nakamura M, Fukui K. Feasibility of immunohistochemical examination of lungs to distinguish intravital milk-aspiration from postmortem "aspiration" a experimental study using a murine model. *Res. Pract. Forensic Med* 2008; **51**: 233-237
- 25 **Wu HH**, Chen YX, Fang SY. Pleural effusion in an immunocompetent host with cryptococcal pneumonia: A case report. *World J Clin Cases* 2020; **8**: 1295-1300 [DOI: 10.12998/wjcc.v8.i7.1295]



Published by **Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**
7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA

Telephone: +1-925-3991568

E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com

Help Desk: <https://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk>

<https://www.wjgnet.com>

