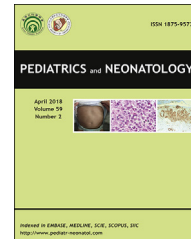


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Images

A rare case of a calcified cephalhematoma mistaken as a skull fracture



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A 2-month-old-boy presented to our emergency department with an apparent depressed area in the left parietal region. His mother informed the emergency department about ventouse and forceps-assisted delivery at 41 weeks' gestation with unremarkable antenatal care. She noticed an initial soft swelling that was diagnosed at the time as a cephalhematoma and was conservatively treated. The swelling eventually decreased in size and hardened. There was no history of trauma; clinical examination was unremarkable apart from positional plagiocephaly and the presence of a depressed area in the left parietal region. Skull X-ray was inconclusive; ultrasound (Fig. 1A) suspected a skull fracture. Head computed tomography (Fig. 1C–F) revealed an outer surface of calcified cephalhematoma that collapsed inward, giving the appearance of a depressed parietal fracture. The natural course of cephalhematomas is gradual resorption¹; however, they may

rarely require surgery.² Although extremely rare, cephalhematomas may ossify.³ Calcified cephalhematoma has been described as an overlying parietal defect; however, we report an unusual appearance that was mistaken for a fracture. Depressed calcified cephalhematoma is extremely rare and can be conservatively managed when no concerning deformity is present, as in this case.

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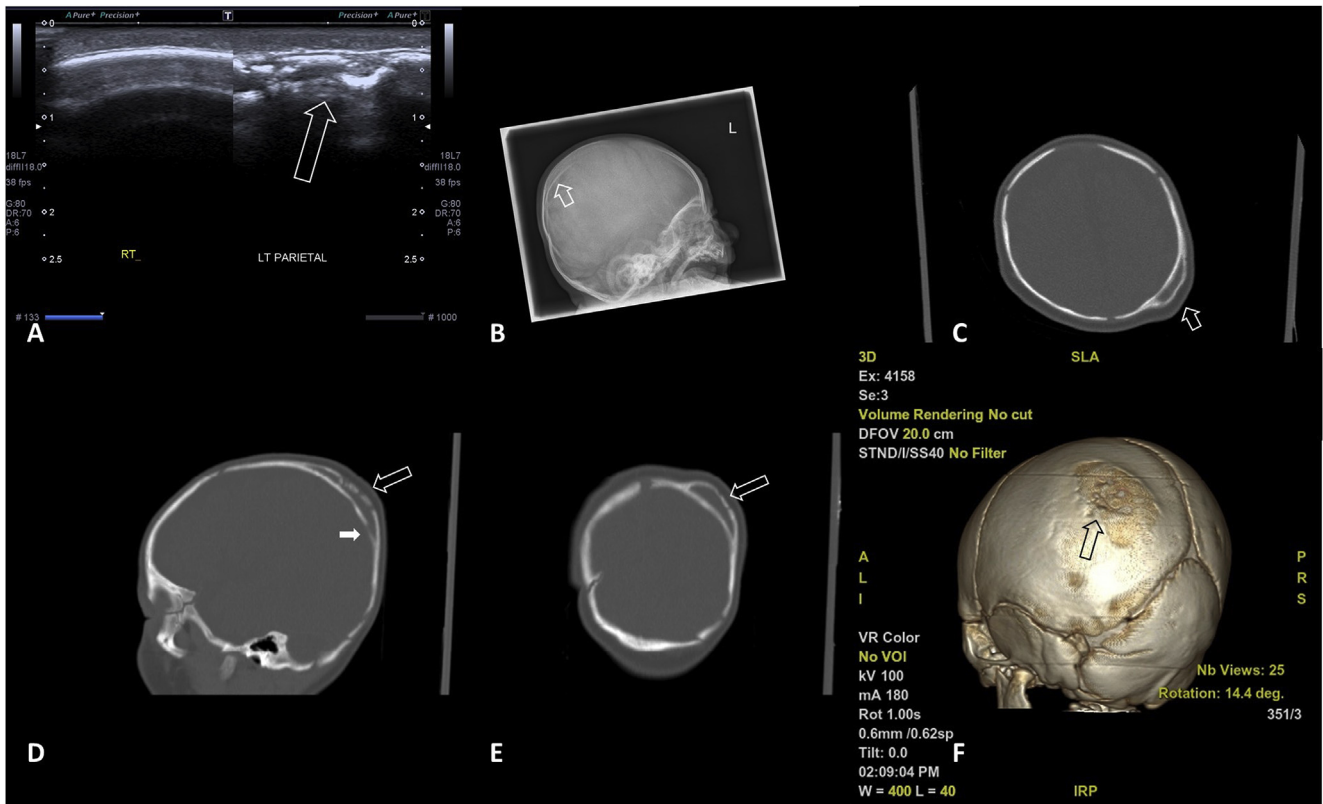


Figure 1 A. An ultrasound scan of the skull lesion, which demonstrates the suspected depressed left parietal fracture (arrow). The right side of figure A shows normal skull ultrasound. B. Skull X-ray showing the suspected abnormal area (arrow). C. An axial bone-window head computed tomography (CT) showing the calcified cephalhematoma (arrow). D. A sagittal bone-window head CT showing the fractured calcified cephalhematoma (arrow) and bony defect (solid arrow). E. A coronal bone-window CT showing the depressed calcification (arrow). F. Three-dimensional reconstruction of head CT showing the calcified swelling (arrow).

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