

Tutorials in Pediatric Dermatology

Zinc Deficiency Syndrome in the Newborn

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In contrast to the hereditary acrodermatitis enteropathica, acquired zinc deficiency syndrome may present with clinical manifestations early in life in the newborn baby. The clinical scenario is usually that of a premature infant who during a rapid growth period receive mother's milk and due to insufficient zinc content of the milk develops acute dietary zinc deficiency. Zinc deficiency may also occur in normal newborns. The clinical picture is dominated by periorificial eczematous oozing lesions with crust formation immitating impetigo (Figs. 1 and 2). Simultaneously flaccid bullae are often seen on the flexural creases of the hands. The diagnosis may be confirmed by finding hypozincemia together with a rapid recovery after starting short-term supplementary oral zinc sulphate.



Fig. 1. Facial periorificial crusted lesions in a newborn with acute zinc deficiency.

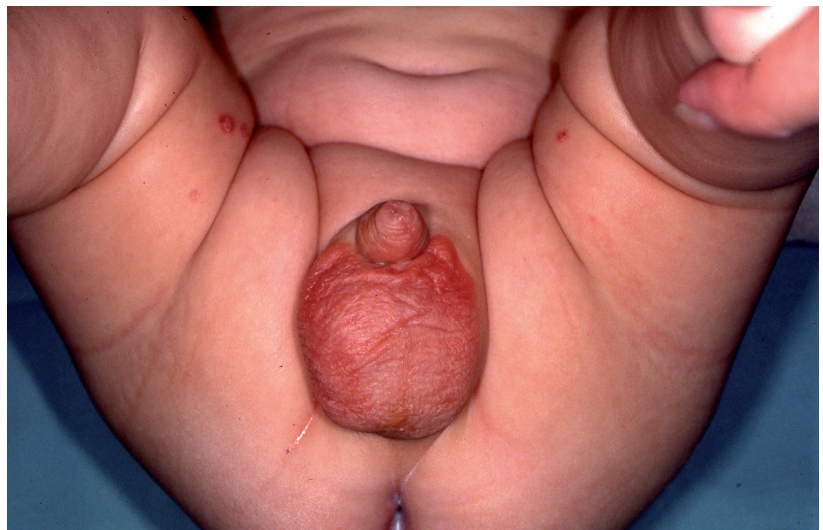


Fig. 2. Ano-genital erythematous eruption (same patients as in Fig. 1).