Congenital Craniofacial Deformities

Occurring in about 1 in 700 live births, cleft lip and cleft palate are easy to identify. But what about the other common craniofacial anomalies?

Match the diagnosis to the photo by letter

- a. Craniofacial microsomia
- b. Plagiocephaly
- c. Hemangioma
- d. Craniosynostosis



1. This youngster is being followed for symptoms related to his right-sided cranial asymmetry noted at birth. Among them: neurologic impairment (sensorineural hearing loss and vision problems, including strabismus), breathing problems, developmental delay and/or intellectual disability, and hydrocephalus. The hands and feet are normal.

Source: By Michael L. Kaufman at the English language Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0



2. This infant presents with a misshapen cranium, most notably the flattened area on the posterior right side. His history includes limited passive neck rotation at birth, preferential head orientation, supine sleep position, and lower activity level.

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3. An adolescent patient presents with marked facial asymmetry, present since birth. The auricular tissue on the left side is malformed; on the right side, low set. The right midface is underdeveloped with micrognathia and chin deviation, resulting in malocclusion.

Source: Wikimedia Commons



4. A 4-month-old boy is brought in by his mother for evaluation of a "birthmark" on his forehead that has become more prominent with time. The child complains a bit when the lesion is touched. His mother gives a history of a normal full-term pregnancy with an uneventful delivery. Other than the skin lesion, there have been no other known problems with the child's health.

For answers, see the next issue; for discussion, go to www.clinicianreviews.com/articles/picture-this.html.