

## Cephal Haematoma in Sickle Cell Anaemia in Warri, Nigeria

**Blessing O. Okperi**

Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences,  
Delta State University, P.O.Box 1737, Effurun, Delta State (Nigeria).

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**To highlight a rare complication of sickle cell anaemia in children. A case report is that of a 14 year girl known sickler (HbSS) presenting in vaso-occlusive crises of the bones of the lower limbs but with obvious bilateral cephal haematoma. A case report of a 15month old boy, known sickler with Vaso-occlusive crises of the bones of the lower limbs but in whom is also found bilateral cephal haematoma**

**Cephal Haematoma is rare complication of sickle cell anaemia in children. Typically never present at birth but occurs from six months of age when all the other crises begins to manifest.**

**Key words:** Cephal haematoma, Sickle cell anaemia, Complication.

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The sickle cell anaemia disease was discovered in England in 1910<sup>1</sup>. It is a one of the haemoglobinopathies which are disorders characterized by abnormalities of synthesis, structure or function of haemoglobin. The disease generally manifests in a multiplicity of features included four well known and characterized life threatening conditions called crises viz : Vaso-occlusive crisis, Hyperhemolytic crisis, Sequestration crisis and Aplastic crisis<sup>2</sup>. Apart from

these well known crises, other features that do not fit in neatly as part of these crises also exist like the sub periosteal haematoma.

### DISCUSSION

Cephal haematoma is a frequently encountered complication of prolonged obstructed labour in Nigeria<sup>3</sup>. However it is a rarity beyond the first three months of life. The bilateral cephal haematoma actually gave rise to some persons who encountered these patients as possessing horns on their head. This is social stigma by the general population who view these bilateral blateral "horns" as being spiritually evil children with different arrogated superstitions to this thie unique appearance. It took quite a lot of explanation by the doctors for these children to to be accepted by parents as normal and that the bilateral cephal haematoma "horns" were a mere complication of the sickle cell anaemia.

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\* To whom all correspondence should be addressed.  
E-mail: ofejiro@yahoo.com



### CONCLUSION

It is important for medical textbooks and journals to highlight this culturally frightening complication of sickle cell anaemia to avoid sicklers with this complication being alienated from their societies.

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