

Hand and Foot Malformation in Newborn

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When a newborn appears at birth with hands and feet malformation, mostly like a lobster claw, we are in the presence of Karsch-Neugebauer Syndrome, also known as Lobster Claw Deformity, Split-Hand/Foot Deformity or Split-Hand/Foot Malformation (SHFM).

This syndrome is inherited as autosomal dominant, x-linked recessive or sporadic. The incidence is 1/18000 with equal boys and girl's relation.

There are 5 genes that can cause this malformation. SHFM can be affected by an abnormality in chromosomes 2, 3, 7, 10 and X chromosome.

In the lobster claw variety type, an absence of the third digit is common. It is usually present in both hands and in the feet.

In another type of presentation, we can find the presence of only the fifth digit but without cleft. Some cases has been associated with deafness. These patients have normal intelligence but with physical restrictions caused by the severity of the deformity.

The differential diagnosis is with Ectrodactyly-ectodermal dysplasia clefting syndrome, with clinical features of absence of fingers and/or toes and tear ducts, cleft lip and/or palate, sparse scalp hair, lashes and eyebrows.

The treatment is supportive and reconstructive surgery can be performed.

Prenatal diagnosis and genetic counseling are important for next pregnancy [1-3].



Figure: Split hands and feet syndrome.

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