

## Goldenhar Syndrome- A Case Report

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**Abstract:** Goldenhar syndrome is a birth defect resulting from the maldevelopment of the first two branchial arches with incomplete development of the ear, nose, soft palate, lip and mandible. The phenotype is highly variable. Goldenhar syndrome is one of the variants of craniofacial anomalies. It is unilateral in 70-80% of the cases. It is known as oculoauriculo vertebral (OAV) dysplasia. The syndrome complex includes limbaldermoid or lipodermoid, pre-auricular tags, hemifacial asymmetry and vertebral anomalies. These are the common anomalies of the condition. This work reports a case 14 year old male in ophthalmology department of MMIMSR who presented with limbaldermoid and on evaluation was found to have the classical signs of this syndrome. Also included is the current protocol for treatment of this syndrome.

**Keywords:** Goldenhar syndrome, limbaldermoid, epibulbadermoid

### I. Introduction

Goldenhar syndrome is a birth defect resulting from the maldevelopment of the first two branchial arches with incomplete development of the ear, nose, soft palate, lip and mandible. The phenotype is highly variable<sup>1</sup>. The syndrome was first recorded by German physician Carl Ferdinand Von Arlt in 1845, however, when Maurice Goldenhar described its various characteristic features in 1952, the credit of discovery went to him. In 1963, Gorlin named this syndrome as oculoauriculovertrebral. It consists classically of the triad of (usually unilateral) maldevelopment of the first and second branchial arches, oculardermoids, and vertebral anomalies<sup>2,3</sup>. It is unilateral in 70-80% of the cases<sup>4</sup>. Its prevalence rate is 1-9/per 100000<sup>5,6</sup> and incidence rate is 1 per 25000-45000 births<sup>7</sup>. Male is more commonly affected than the female (ratio 2:1). Most of the cases of OAV are sporadic, autosomal dominant transmission is reported for 1% - 2% of the cases. A few cases with autosomal recessive inheritance have been reported<sup>8</sup>. Though, the etiology of Goldenhar syndrome is not well established, it is thought to be due to exposure to various viruses or chemicals during pregnancy. Some researchers also suggested gestational diabetes mellitus as one of the cause. The MSX homeobox genes play a crucial role in the pathogenesis<sup>3,9</sup>. Ocular anomalies occur in about 50% of the cases of OAV<sup>6</sup>. Epibulbadermoid and lipodermoid are the most common. Coloboma of the upper eyelid may be present. Limbaldermoid or lipodermoid are mainly located in the inferotemporal region of the eye. Ocular defects are reported in 65% of the cases and include pre-auricular tags, microtia, anotia and conductive hearing loss. Vertebral anomalies are combination of hemivertebra, fused ribs, kyphosis and scoliosis. Additional features such as cardiac, genito-urinary and pulmonary systems can also be affected<sup>10,11</sup>.

**Case report:-**A 14 years old male reported at the Ophthalmology OPD of MMIMSR, Mullana (Ambala), Haryana, with complaints of growth of mass in left eye & decrease in vision associated with preauricular tags (fig.1). The mass was present inferotemporally on the limbus encroaching the cornea and was gradually increasing and causing obstruction of the visual axis.



**Figure 1.** Case reported in the opd

The patient was examined thoroughly. His visual acuity was 6/6 in right eye and 2/60 in left eye. After slit lamp examination it was revealed that the mass was limbal-dermoid (Fig.2). Fundoscopic examination was found normal.



**Figure 2.**Limbaldermoid in left eye

ENT examination revealed preauricular tags present in the both ears(Fig. 3). No other abnormalities were detected. Systemic examination like cardiovascular, pulmonary and genito-urinary systems was done but no abnormalities were detected. The laboratory investigations were within normal limits. Electrocardiography was normal. X-Ray of the vertebral column showed scoliosis as a classical feature (Fig. 4).



**Figure 2.**Preauricular tags



**Fig.4**X-Ray of vertebral column showing scoliosis.

## II. Discussion & Conclusion

Goldenhar syndrome is known as oculoauriculo vertebral dysplasia. It is proposed to represent a variant of hemifacialmicrosomia group. It includes hemifacial hypoplasia, oculoauriculo vertebral dysplasia and first and second arch syndrome. The involvement is unilateral in 70%-80% of cases<sup>4,12</sup>. Ocular manifestations are limbaldermoid or lipodermoid and occasional coloboma of the upper eye lid. Limbaldermoid is more common than lipodermoid. It is usually present in the inferotemporal quadrant and can be bilateral in 25% cases<sup>9</sup>. There are two types of limbaldermoid - large and small. The larger one interferes with the visual axis causing astigmatism and predisposing to secondary strabismus from anisometropic amblyopia. Other associations are Duane Retraction syndrome and lower incidence of decreased corneal sensation; cataract and iris abnormalities<sup>13,14</sup>. Ear tags are common. Inner ear anomalies are occurring in some cases.

CNS is occasionally affected. Vertebral anomalies include kyphosis, scoliosis and lumbar lordosis. Other findings include hemifacial asymmetry, microtia, macrosomia and mandibular anomalies. Clinical diagnosis is based on the clinical findings and other laboratory and radiological findings<sup>15</sup>.

Treatment of the disease varies according to the severity of the manifestation. With regard to the rule of ophthalmology is aimed-First at risk causing obstruction of the visual axis, severe astigmatism or strabismus, Second at ocular exposure (due to large coloboma or large limbaldermoid preventing lid closure), Third at working with craniofacial surgeon in case of severe muscular weakness that requires reconstruction of the upper face. Systemic treatment may be related for cardio-renal or CNS malformation<sup>16</sup>.

Treatment of the condition related to large coloboma requires surgical repair and spectacle correction, large limbaldermoid needs excision of the dermoid with lamellar keratoplasty. Severe anomalies of the mandible require reconstruction with bone graft. In case of microtia or other ear defects extensive ear reconstruction is to be done within 6-8 years of age<sup>14</sup>. If the facial or congenital malformations are severe speech therapy is required<sup>15</sup>. In this particular case there were anomalies of eye and ear that was corrected by surgical intervention without any complications.

Goldenhar syndrome is a rare congenital abnormality associated with cosmetically unacceptable defects whose management may pose numerous challenges and requires a multistage and multidisciplinary approach for its optimal management.

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