

## Case Report

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# Primary Epstein-Barr virus infection in a 40-day-old infant

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**Abstract.** Most cases of primary Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) infection during infancy and early childhood are mild or subclinical; therefore, the diagnosis of an EBV infection is not performed easily in this age group. Infectious mononucleosis (IM) is rarely reported during infancy. We report a 40-day-old infant with cervical node enlargement, cough, and coryza symptoms who was finally identified as having a case of primary IM based on the patient's clinical features and serological tests.

Keywords: Epstein-Barr virus, infectious mononucleosis, infancy, diagnosis

## 1. Introduction

Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) belongs to the herpes family and spreads by close contact between susceptible people and asymptomatic EBV shedders [1]. Most of the children in Asia and developing countries are infected within their first year of life while the age of primary infection is delayed in developed countries [2]. We report 40-day-old infant who was finally identified as having a case of primary infectious mononucleosis (IM) based on the patient's clinical features and serological tests. As IM is rarely reported in this age group, this case suggests that IM should be considered as one of the possible differential diagnoses in neonates, particularly those with symptoms suggestive of IM, such as high fever, cervical adenopathy, and pharyngeal involvement.

## 2. Case report

A 40-day-old breastfed Iranian girl was referred to Taleghani Pediatrics Center, Gorgan, Iran. Her mother stated that she had noticed bilateral cervical enlargement in the baby the night before admission. She also reported that baby had experienced productive cough, coryza, and bloody stools (two times) five days previously and had received oral Acetaminophen and Diphenhydramine.

The baby was the first child of a primigravid mother, born via elective caesarian section at full term following an uncomplicated pregnancy. The infant's birth weight and height was 3000 g and 52 cm, respectively; and her head circumference at birth was 35 cm. She has had no recent history of poor feeding or illness. Past medical history revealed neonatal jaundice, which had been managed conservatively at home. No history of recent travel, contact with ill persons or animals was reported. There was no history of any illness in her mother and other family members.

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