

**HARLEQUIN ICHTHYOSIS – A RARE GENETIC SKIN DISORDERS****Kalyani Dhamal\*, Omkar Bhalekar, Pragati Padhake, Vrushali Shelar, Anuja Misal**

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**ABSTRACT**

Skin disorder are vary in symptoms and severity. They may be minor, temporary or permanent, painless or painfull, life threatening. Harlequin ichthyosis is rare genetic skin disorder. It caused due to mutation in ABCA12 gene. Gene ABCA12 has role in preparing protein which responsible for making skin cells. They transport lipids to superficial layers of skin. When ABCA is muted, skin barrier is disrupted. A newborn infant skin covered with thick plates of skin that crack and split apart. This genetic disorder is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern. The tightening of skin became difficulty in breathing and eating. Infants born with harlequin ichthyosis have flat nose, feet and hand are small and swollen, ear are missing, and also joint mobility. It can be diagnosed at birth based on baby physical appearance. This review is focused on making awareness about rare genetic skin disorder.

**KEYWORDS:** Harlequin Ichthyosis, ABCA12, Genetic disorder.**INTRODUCTION**

Ichthyosis is derived from Greek word "ichthys" means fish. It appeared as fish scale like skin. The Harlequin Ichthyosis is rare genetic disorder with harlequin baby syndrome, harlequin fetus, Ichthyosis fetal as synonyms. It affect male and female in equal number. Approximately in 5,00,000 people 1 is affected or 7 cases in every year in united state. Harlequin ichthyosis is severe form of keratinizing disorders. It occurred in lethal during neonatal period, there is thickening of keratin skin layer. Recessive genetic disorder is occurred when individual receive one normal and one abnormal gene, this person is carrier for that disease but don't show any symptoms. The risk for two carrier parents to both pass abnormal gene, an affected child with 25% of each pregnancy. The chance for child to receive normal gene is 25%.

**First case in world**

First case in US reported in diary of Reverend Oliver Hart in 1750. Harlequin Ichthyosis is believed to inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. "armor" like thick yellow plates of scales with deep red fissuring. A new born infants was died in one day after birth. Fetal have respiratory infections, dehydration complications.

**First case of Harlequin Ichthyosis in India**

India recorded first case of harlequin ichthyosis in Nagpur. After a pre term a baby girl was born to young farmer couple in lata mangeshkar hospital. The entire body of baby covered with thick skin. The baby has no ear, fish like mouth, an inverted eyelid, two holes for nose. The baby was born at eight month pregnancy.

There parents carry the mutated gene that causes skin disorder.

**Symptoms**

The thick plates make distort of facial fractures and restricted breathing and eating. Lamellar Ichthyosis have similar symptoms as harlequin ichthyosis. In which brown, dark plates like scale are separated by deep crack. They causes redness of skin and thickened of skin on palm and decreased sweating with heat tolerance. The infants with harlequin Ichthyosis have high risk for low body temperature, dehydration and elevated sodium level in blood. The symptoms of HI are:

- Eyelid turning inside out.
- Ear fused to head
- Nursing difficulty
- Breathing problems
- Hypernatremia
- Dehydration
- Low body temperature.

**Causes**

Harlequin ichthyosis is mainly caused by mutation in ABCA12 gene located on chromosome 2q34. ABCA12 gene makes the protein which is responsible for normal development of skin cells. The transfer of fats or lipids to outermost cell of body carried out by Proteins.

**Tables****ABCA subfamily with their functions, disorder.**

| Member | Sites of Organ               | Functions                           | Associated disorder                               |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| ABCA12 | Skin epidermal keratinocytes | Lamellar granule lipid transport    | Harlequin ichthyosis, lamellar ichthyosis         |
| ABCA3  | Lung, alveolar type 2 cells  | Lamellar granule lipid transport    | Fatal surfactant deficiency                       |
| ABCA1  | Blood vessels                | Cholesterol , phospholipid transfer | Tangier disease, early atherosclerosis.           |
| ABCA4  | Eye, retinal rod cells       | Retinoid transport                  | Age related macular dystrophy, cone rod dystrophy |
| ABCA5  | Skeletal muscle              | --                                  | --                                                |

**Diagnosis**

Harlequin Ichthyosis can diagnosed at birth place on baby physical appearance. Prenatal testing possible by testing fetal DNA for mutations in ABCA gene. During second trimester and onward features of harlequin ichthyosis seen on ultrasound. It can be diagnosed before birth using amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling. The genetic testing registry provide information about genetic test for this condition.

**Treatments**

A neonatal intensive care team is required for caring the newborn with harlequin ichthyosis.

- Tube feeding help in malnutrition and dehydration.
- Retinoid prevent scaly skin
- Topical antibiotics prevent infection
- Covering the skin with bandages prevent infection.
- Artificial airway to improve breathing.
- Using lubricating eye drops or protective device on eyes

**Managements**

There is no proper treatments for harlequin ichthyosis (HI). Hence it is more important to care our skin.

- Protect the skin from environmental bacteria, viruses, fungi.
- Maintain the skin moist, clean. dry skin break out and valuranble to infections.
- Apply moisture rich product to skin.

**DISCUSSION**

Harlequin Ichthyosis (HI) is rare transferred genetic skin disorder. There are more than 20 types of ichthyosis with difference in their symptoms. Generally HI are found in North American, Asian, Mongolian groups. Family history is important to determine mode of inheritance. HI is genetically and phenotypically heterogeneous disorder. Frequency of HI is occurred as 1 in 3,00,000.

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**CONCLUSION**

Harlequin ichthyosis is rare genetic recessive disorder. Most commonly occurred in newborn infants. There is less chances for surveillance of fetal. More care with intensive team required for there caring. The prognosis of HI found as death in one month is relatively common. Still date there is special therapy or treatments for HI not found. June 2016 Nagpur reported the first HI case in India. This review is focused on generally rare cases of genetically skin disorders.

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