

A Rare Cause of Persistent Constipation in Infants

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1. Clinical Image

A 9-month-old female with no prior medical history presented with persistent constipation that began at 3 months of age. Clinical examination revealed an infant with normal psychomotor development and age-appropriate growth parameters. Examination of the external genitalia showed an anteriorly positioned anus relative to other perineal structures. Diagnosis was confirmed by measuring the anal position index. A posterior mucosal anoplasty was performed as surgical treatment, accompanied by a rectal biopsy, which excluded the presence of ultrashort-segment Hirschsprung's disease. Clinical follow-up demonstrated significant improvement in the patient's symptoms.

The anterior positioning of the anus can lead to painful constipation, particularly in females. This condition describes an anus that is positioned excessively anteriorly, primarily in relation to the rectum rather than to other perineal structures. In this configuration, the pushing effort during defecation occurs behind the anal opening, resulting in persistent and painful constipation [1,2]. Measuring the anal position index is crucial for diagnosing an anteriorly positioned anus. It provides an objective assessment of anal positioning, confirming the presence of the anomaly. The treatment for an anteriorly positioned anus is surgical, and the prognosis is excellent.

2. Keywords: Anal Position Index; Chronic constipation



Figures 1: Anal position index: 0.26.

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