A 6-year-old female child presented to our hospital with intellectual disability, global developmental delay, seizures, bilateral congenital squint, and features of facial weakness. On examination, the patient had lower motor facial nerve palsy and was unable to move both sides of her face and forehead. Her skin was devoid of wrinkles. She was unable to close her mouth, raise her eyebrows, or speak clearly. The patient also suffered from bilateral abducens nerve palsy with congenital internal strabismus and associated partial ophthalmoplegia. Lateral gaze paralysis was also present, indicating medial longitudinal fascicular involvement. The child also had syndactyly and small uneven-sized limbs. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain [Figures 1 and 2] revealed depression of the floor of the fourth ventricle, hypoplasia of the medulla, pons, and bilateral middle cerebellar peduncles with absent facial colliculi. The cisternal and canalicular segments of bilateral facial nerves were absent. These features are suggestive of Möbius syndrome.

Discussion

Möbius syndrome is a relatively rare congenital cranial dysinnervation disorder.\(^1\) It was described by Von Graefe, Julius Möbius and was further elaborated upon by Henderson. The etiopathogenesis is multifactorial. Transient hypoxic or ischaemic insult to the fetus is considered as the most likely cause.\(^2\) Clinically, such patients present with facial diplegia involving the upper and lower facial muscles, impairment of eye abduction, craniofacial malformation, hypoglossia, maldevelopment of the corticospinal and corticobulbar tracts, and limb anomalies.\(^2\) Hearing loss and mental retardation have also been reported.\(^1\) Imaging findings include hypoplasia of the pons/medulla, hypoglossal prominence, facial colliculus, and the cerebellum. Calcification of the abducens nuclei in the pons and the absence of the middle cerebellar peduncle have

Address for correspondence:
Dr. Sameer Vyas, Department of Radiodiagnosis and Imaging, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India.
E-mail: sameer574@yahoo.co.in

also been reported.[2] The absence or hypoplasia of the 6th, 7th, and 9th cranial nerves may also be associated.[3] No definitive treatment is available. Imaging data in Möbius syndrome are scarce, and there are only a few reports. MRI is very useful in diagnosis by direct imaging of cranial nerves abnormalities. As illustrated in the index case, the absence of cranial nerves and brainstem changes as described are consistent with the diagnosis.

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Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

References