Toxoplasma gondii TORCH

Toxoplasma gondii is a parasitic protozoa that causes the disease toxoplasmosis. This disease is usually minor and self-limiting in the immunocompetent but can cause serious disease in the immunocompromised.It is also a cause of congenital TORCH infections in a fetus whose mother contracts the disease during pregnancy due to the ability to cross the placenta. Mothers who contract the disease are often asymptomatic and rarely may have lymphadenopathy. Nonspecific signs common to many TORCH infections include hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, and thrombocytopenia. Common signs in infants with congenital infection of Toxoplasma gondii include intrauterine growth retardation, hepatosplenomegaly, deafness, basal ganglia calcifications, chorioretinitis, and hydrocephalus.



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Signs and Symptoms

Congenital TORCH Infection
Torch
Toxoplasma gondii is a cause of congenital TORCH infections in a fetus whose mother contracts disease during pregnancy due to the ability to cross the placenta.

Mom Usually Asymptomatic
Happy Pregnant-lady
Mothers who contract the disease are usually asymptomatic.

Rarely Lymphadenopathy
Lymph-lime-add (+)
Mothers who contract the disease are usually asymptomatic and rarely can have swelling of the lymph nodes.

Nonspecific TORCH Signs
Yellow Torch made of liver and trombone-peanut
Nonspecific signs common to many torch infections include hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, and thrombocytopenia.

Intrauterine Growth Retardation
In utero babies in C-clamp and Read-tarred Book
Intrauterine growth retardation is defined as poor growth of a fetus while in the mother's womb during pregnancy. Intrauterine growth retardation is a common finding in infants with TORCH infections.

Hepatosplenomegaly
Liver-and-spleen-balloons
Hepatosplenomegaly is enlargement of the liver and spleen, and is a common finding in infants with TORCH infections.

Deafness
Headphones
Congenital hearing loss is commonly seen in congenital toxoplasmosis.

Chorioretinitis
Oreo-red-tin-eyes
Chorioretinitis is inflammation of the choroid and retina of the eye, causing symptoms of floating black spots, blurry vision, and pain in the eye. Chorioretinitis is commonly seen in congenital toxoplasmosis.

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Hydrocephalus

Hydras

Hydrocephalus is an abnormal accumulation of CSF in the brain that can cause increased intracranial pressure inside the skull. It is a common finding in infants with congenital toxoplasmosis.

Diagnosis

Calcifications

Calcified-cow

With congenital toxoplasmosis, infants have scattered calcifications in the white matter, basal ganglia and cortex.

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