

Syphilis TORCH

Syphilis is a spirochete bacterial infection that can cause a congenital TORCH infection. TORCH infections are infections that are acquired in utero or during the birthing process, and the acronym TORCH represents **T**oxoplasmosis, **O**thers (Syphilis, Varicella, Mumps, Parvovirus, HIV), **R**ubella, **C**ytomegalovirus, and **H**erpes Simplex. Congenital syphilis typically occurs in infants born from a mother with secondary syphilis, characterized by a disseminated rash on the palms, soles, and condyloma lata. In infants, nonspecific signs common to many TORCH infections include hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, and thrombocytopenia. Congenital syphilis infection can result in stillbirth or hydrops fetalis of the infant. If the child survives, deformities of the bone are common, especially in the nose and lower legs, causing saddle nose and saber shins, respectively. Other bone deformities include notched teeth and short maxilla. Blindness and deafness are also common manifestations of congenital syphilis, as is hepatitis.



PLAY PICMONIC

Signs and Symptoms

Nonspecific TORCH Symptoms

Yellow TORCH made of Liver and Trombone-peanut

Nonspecific signs common to many TORCH infections include hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, and thrombocytopenia.

Often Results in Stillbirth

Baby-stone-statue

Stillbirth refers to the death of a fetus inside the uterus. This can be caused by a congenital syphilis infection.

Hydrops Fetalis

Eye-drop Fetus

Hydrops fetalis is characterized by the abnormal accumulation of fluid in two or more areas of the body of a fetus or newborn. This can occur as a consequence of a congenital syphilis infection.

Saber Shins

Saber-tooth-tiger biting Shin

Bone deformities of the shin are common in congenital syphilis and can manifest as malformations of the tibia, commonly called saber shins. Saber shins are characterized by a sharp anterior bowing of the tibia.

Notched Teeth

Notched Teeth

Bone deformities are common in congenital syphilis infections and include notched teeth. Notched teeth refer to teeth with notches on the biting surfaces and are typically smaller and more widely spaced than normal. Notched teeth are also called Hutchinson's teeth and are characteristic findings in congenital syphilis.

Saddle Nose

Saddle on Nose

The term "saddle nose" refers to a collapse of the bridge of the nose; this is a common manifestation of congenital syphilis infections.

Blindness

Blinds-over-eye

Blindness is a common manifestation of congenital syphilis infections and can result from the inflammation of the cornea, which leads to corneal scarring.

Deafness

Headphones

Sensorineural hearing loss, associated with damage to cranial nerve VIII, is a common manifestation of congenital syphilis infection.

Hepatitis

Liver-in-flames

Inflammation of the liver is a known manifestation of congenital syphilis.