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A Pediatric Marvel: Postaxial Polydactyly in a Toddler

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Clinical Image description

A 2-year-old child presented with an extra digit on the ulnar side of the left hand, consistent with postaxial polydactyly. This condition, characterized by an additional finger on the side of the little finger, is one of the most common congenital limb anomalies. It can occur in isolation or as part of a syndrome, such as Ellis-van Creveld syndrome or Bardet-Biedl syndrome, though isolated cases are more frequent. On examination, the supernumerary digit was non-functional, soft, and attached by a narrow stalk, suggesting a rudimentary structure. There was no associated pain or functional limitation. Postaxial polydactyly is

classified into type A, where the digit is well-formed, and type B, where it is rudimentary. This case represents type B polydactyly. Radiographs confirmed the absence of bone in the additional digit. Surgical excision was planned for cosmetic reasons and to prevent potential complications such as recurrent infections or interference with daily activities. This case highlights the importance of evaluating polydactyly for syndromic features and genetic counseling, especially when there is a family history or other associated anomalies. Early surgical intervention ensures better outcomes for the child.



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Image: Postaxial polydactyly on little finger of left upper limb.