



Pathology & Biology Section – 2004

G48 Unexpected Death From Ureterocele in an Infant

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After attending this presentation, attendees will recognize ureteroceles as a possible cause of unexpected death in infants.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by creating awareness of a possible cause of unexpected death in infancy.

An infant died suddenly of an ectopic ureterocele which was undiagnosed in life. Ureteroceles are cystic dilatations of the submucosal portion of the terminal intravesical ureter. They are generally classified as intravesical (entirely within the bladder) or ectopic (some portion is situated permanently at the bladder neck or in the urethra). The incidence of this abnormality is about 1 in 5,000 to 12,000 births. In infants, the most common presentation is a urinary tract infection within the first few months of life. Other common presentations include a palpable abdominal mass from an obstructed renal unit or detection during an antenatal maternal ultrasound. In the case presented, a 4-month-old white male died within minutes after his arrival at an emergency department. The parents reported the child had "not felt well" for about a week prior to his death. The autopsy revealed a right ectopic ureterocele with bilateral ureteral obstruction, urethral obstruction, and a urinary tract infection due to *Escherichia coli*. Sudden death in an infant caused by a previously undiagnosed ureterocele has not previously been reported.

Ureterocele, Infant Death, Genitourinary