

*Images/Videos in Hematology*

# An unusual cause of breath-holding spell in a leukemic infant: Cytarabine

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**Videos available on:**[https://dx.doi.org/10.25259/JHAS\\_52\\_2023](https://dx.doi.org/10.25259/JHAS_52_2023)**Quick Response Code:**

A previously healthy 14-month-old female infant was diagnosed with leukemia. She was in complete remission following induction chemotherapy of the Interfant-06 protocol. Her complete blood count was within normal limits. After the first four cytarabine infusions, she developed a fever, palmar erythema, and edema [Figure 1]. Chemotherapy was discontinued. Cellulitis was suspected, and thus, broad-spectrum antibiotics were started. Her complaint was alleviated. When cytarabine infusion was restarted, fever, bilateral palmar erythema, edema, breath-holding spells, and cyanosis were observed [Video 1]. Her electroencephalogram revealed no abnormalities. All of these findings have been attributed to secondary cytarabine. Both immediate and delayed hypersensitivity reactions to cytarabine have been reported.<sup>[1,2]</sup> For allergic reactions, 1 mg/kg methylprednisolone plus antihistamine was administered before cytarabine infusion. All symptoms disappeared. She completed the chemotherapy protocol.

Based on a literature search, the breath-holding spell in a leukemic child caused by cytarabine has been documented for the 1<sup>st</sup> time.



**Figure 1:** Palmar erythema and edema in an infant.

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**Video 1:** Breath-holding spell in a leukemic child video is accessible from the portal.

### Ethical approval

The Institutional Review Board approval is not required.

### Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

### Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

### Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation

The authors confirm that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript, and no images were manipulated using AI.

### REFERENCES

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