

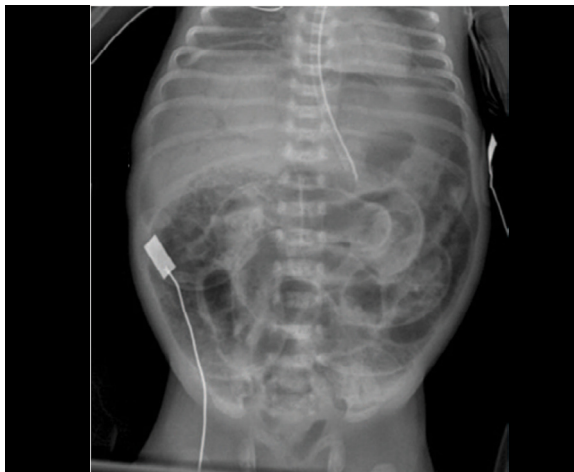
Sonographic Detection of Portal Venous Gas in Necrotising Enterocolitis in Newborn

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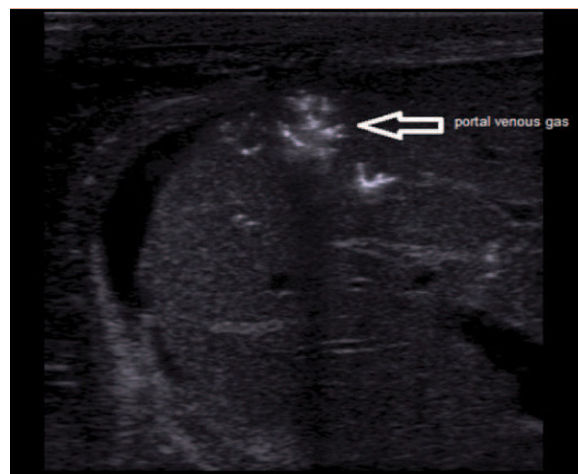
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IMAGES IN MEDICINE

Preterm baby 28 week gestation and birth weight of 900 gm. Baby was initially treated for respiratory distress syndrome with surfactant and subsequently CPAP. Baby was on full feeds enterally with expressed breast milk and fortified with human milk fortifier. On day 18, baby became unwell and had abdominal distension. Abdominal x ray revealed pneumatosis intestinalis and portal venous gas [Table/Fig-1,2]. Ultrasound abdomen done at the same time classically revealed portal venous gas. Demonstration of portal venous gas on X-ray is pathognomonic of Necrotising enterocolitis. But it is not always very easy to be sure of portal venous gas on X-ray. Ultrasound is very helpful in demonstrating portal venous gas, and is advocated when x ray is not reassuring.



[Table/Fig-1]: Portal vein gas X- ray



[Table/Fig-2]: ultrasound image demonstrating gas in the portal venous system in a preterm newborn

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