

Report of four cases with successful use of intermittent intravenous calcium via peripheral route

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Background

Hereditary vitamin D-resistant rickets (HVDRR) is a rare disease caused by mutations in *vitamin D receptor (VDR)*. Patients with HVDRR are usually treated with intravenous calcium (IV-Ca) therapy via a central catheter. However, central catheter-related complications can cause important morbidity. In this report, we described four patients with HVDRR from different families. In three of these cases we used a novel therapeutic regime of intermittent IV-Ca therapy via peripheral vein.

Table. Clinical and genetic features of patients

	P#1	P#2	P#3	P#4
Age of admission at our clinic (years)	4.3	9.8	2.7	1.5
Laboratory at admission (SI unit)				
Ca mg/dl (mmol/L)	8.2 (2.1)	7.5 (1.9)	8.6 (2.2)	8.2 (2.1)
P mg/dl (mmol/L)	2.5 (0.8)	3.4 (1.1)	2.9 (0.9)	2.2 (0.7)
ALP (U/L)	6168	1303	1606	1655
PTH pg/ml (ng/L)	1240	304	762	590
Age at initiation of IV Ca therapy (years)	5.2	9.8	4.8	1.9
Route of IV therapy	Peripheral	Peripheral	Peripheral	Peripheral-to-Central
IV Ca dose (mg/kg/week)	18	90	60	18
Duration of IV Ca therapy required to healing of rickets (months)	10	1	22	10
Cumulative dose of IV Ca (mg/kg)	770	405	5600	770
VDR mutation	Q152X exon5	Q152X exon5	IVS8 as-2 A>G, homozygote (Novel)	c.67insG, p.Ile23Asp fsX20, homozygote (Novel)

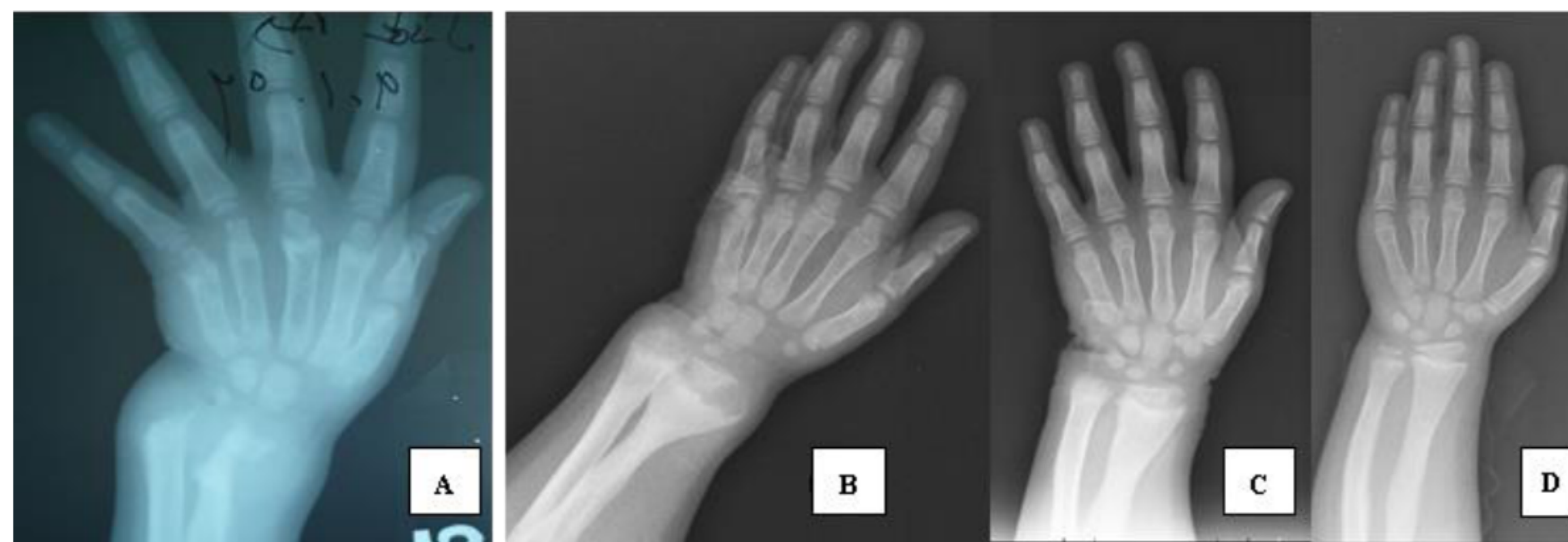


Figure. Radiologic improvement in Patient#1. A. At admission, B. After high dose oral Ca and calcitriol therapy, C. During the IV-Ca therapy, D. After IV-Ca therapy.

- In order to overcome the central-catheter related risks, we used a novel therapeutic regime of intermittent IV-Ca therapy via peripheral vein. Calcium gluconate 10% solution 1-2 ml/kg/dose diluted in 100 ml saline (0.9% NaCl solution) was given in an outpatient setting approximately three times/week, each lasting two to three hours.
- IV-Ca infusion via peripheral line was as effective as that via a central line and all our patients had both clinical and biochemical improvement within a few months after commencement of the therapy. In our method peripheral cannula was changed every 3-5 days.
- No serious complications such as infection or extravasation of Ca were noted during entire treatment period. Despite significant hypercalcuria, none of our patients developed urolithiasis or nephrocalcinosis.
- Another interesting observation in our patients who received IV-Ca therapy is that, despite cessation of IV therapy, their rickets remain in the remission and no patients returned to active rickets demonstrating long-lasting effect of IV Ca therapy. In our cases, the longest period was 4.5 years after cessation of therapy in Patient#1 and there was still no recurrence of active rickets.

Conclusion

- We shared our experience in four children with HVDRR, two with the same previously known mutation and the other two having different novel mutations.
- We demonstrated that IV-Ca therapy, via peripheral route in patients with HVDRR who do not respond to high dose oral calcium treatment, is a practical method that provides a dramatic clinical benefit and healing of rickets without carrying central catheter-related risks.

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