

## IMAGES IN NEONATAL MEDICINE.....

## Rare spontaneous regression of patent omphalomesenteric duct after birth

The abdominal radiograph (fig 1) shows contrast material in the small bowel after injection through a fourth lumen found in the transected umbilical cord of an infant born at 28 weeks gestation (in vitro fertilisation), consistent with a patent omphalomesenteric duct.

When the infant was 3 months old, the umbilical skin was completely closed leaving a 1.5 cm umbilical hernia. Exploratory surgery was performed. Neither patent omphalomesenteric duct nor its fibrous remnant were present.

A Meckel's diverticulum was found 40 cm from the ileocaecal junction (fig 2). A Meckel's diverticulectomy was performed. The period after the operation was uneventful.

Patent omphalomesenteric duct accounts for about 2% of omphalomesenteric duct malformations<sup>1</sup> and should be suspected in the presence of an umbilical discharge, umbilical granuloma not responding to silver nitrate cauterisation, or in the presence of an additional non-vascular lumen in a transected umbilical cord. Prompt surgical repair minimises the risk of intestinal obstruction and prolapse of the ileum through the fistula. Only one similar case of spontaneous postnatal regression of a patent omphalomesenteric duct was found in the literature.<sup>2</sup>

**E Kurzbart**

Pediatric Surgery, The Barzilai Medical Center,  
Ashkelon, Israel; ednaverdii@yahoo.com

**M Zeitlin**

**D Feigenbaum**

**A Zaritzky**

Neonatal Unit, The Barzilai Medical Center,  
Ashkelon, Israel

**Z Cohen**

**A J Mares**

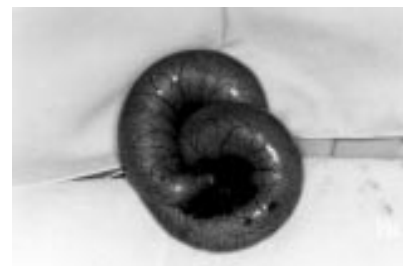
Department of Pediatric Surgery, Soroka Medical  
Center, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion  
University of the Negev, Israel

#### References

- 1 **Moor TC.** Omphalomesenteric duct malformations. *Semin Pediatr Surg* 1996;**5**:116-23.
- 2 **Kamii Y, Zaki AM, Honna T, et al.** Spontaneous regression of patent omphalomesenteric duct: from a fistula to Meckel's diverticulum. *J Pediatr Surg* 1992;**27**:115-16.



**Figure 1** Abdominal radiograph after cannulation of the fourth lumen in the umbilical cord showing contrast material in the small bowel.



**Figure 2** Laparotomy revealed a Meckel's diverticulum adherent to the mesenterium without a mesodiverticular band.