Cow`s milk protein allergy presenting as necrotizing enterocolitis: a case report

Sarayutdh Tonglor, Pantipa Chatchatee, and Jarungchit Ngamphaiboon. King Memorial Chulalongkorn Hospital, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, Bangkok, Thailand.

**Background:** Gastrointestinal symptoms are common manifestation of cow`s milk protein allergy. However, necrotizing enterocolitis resulting from cow`s milk protein allergy is rare.

**Case report:** A 3,300 gm. full term female infant had been fed with cow`s milk formula since birth for ten days then switched to breast feeding alone. At twelfth day of life, she gradually developed abdominal distension and vomiting 2-3 times a day and was brought to see the pediatrician. Her physical examination had no other abnormal finding except abdominal distension. So, she was advised to got some simethicone for abdominal discomfort and continued breast feeding. She still had the same symptoms that was vomiting and progressive abdominal distension. At twenty-fourth day of life, she had developed more frequent vomiting, mucous bloody diarrhea, severe abdominal distension, hematochezia and pneumatosis intestinalis was seen on her X-ray finding. Laboratory finding included normal complete blood count, negative blood and stool culture. Necrotizing enterocolitis was diagnosed and successfully tolerated with parenteral antibiotics. She was placed on extensive hydrolysate formula which was well tolerated. The prick skin testing, atopy patch testing and radioallergosorbent testing were all negative for cow`s milk protein. Three months after, she grew very well with normal weight and height. She was challenged with soy-based formula at four month of age and well tolerated. At seventh month of age, she was challenged with cow`s milk protein and developed vomiting, abdominal distension within four days. The diagnosis of cow`s milk protein allergy was made based on positive symptoms after challenge.

**Conclusion:** Cow`s milk protein allergy should be evaluated in patient presents with necrotizing enterocolitis without obvious risk factors.

**Source:**
http://journals.lww.com/waojournal/Fulltext/2007/11000/Cow_s_milk_protein_allergy_presenting_as.899.aspx