

Lumbar skin stigmata: guidelines for newborn

Guideline Responsibilities and Authorisation

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Guideline Review History

Version	Updated by	Date Updated	Description of Changes
3	David Bouchier	October 2016	None

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1. Overview

1.1 Purpose

Tethered cord syndrome is associated with dorsal midline skin stigmata. Early detection and prophylactic cord release, when indicated, prevents most, if not all, symptoms.

Classification:

- (a) Low risk lesion
 - Simple dimple (a soft tissue depression appearing up to 2.5 cm above the anus or within coccygeal proximity).
 - Deviated gluteal fold
- (b) Intermediate risk lesion
 - Discoloration (vascular anomaly, pigmented lesions, cutis aplasia)
 - Mongolian spots are excluded
- (c) High risk lesion
 - Hypertrichosis (long, silky hair)
 - Skin tags
 - Associated mass
 - Associated syndrome

2. Clinical Management

Management recommendations:

- (a) Low risk - no investigation
- (b) Intermediate risk - ultrasound
- (c) High risk - MRI

2.1 References

Ben-Sira et al. Low-risk lumbar skin stigmata in infants: The role of Ultrasound Screening. *J Pediatr* 2009; 155:864-9