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|  | <div>ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER</div> <div>FULMINANT HEPATITIS AND SUSPECTED<br/>VARICELLA PNEUMONIA IN AN<br/>IMMUNOCOMPETENT ADULT WITH PRIMARY<br/>VARICELLA INFECTION</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <div>General Medicine</div> <div>KEY WORDS:</div> |
| <div>Dr. Ch.<br/>Nookaraju</div>                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                   |
| <div>Dr. Smita Patil</div>                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                   |
| <div>Dr. Santwana<br/>Chandrakar</div>                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                   |
| <div>ABSTRACT</div>                                                              | <p><b>Background:</b> Primary infection with Varicella-zoster virus in adults can be associated with severe systemic complications, including varicella pneumonia and fulminant hepatitis. While mild transaminitis is common, progression to acute liver failure is rare and carries high morbidity and mortality. Early recognition and prompt antiviral therapy are critical. <b>Case Presentation:</b> A 48-year-old previously healthy female presented with acute onset abdominal pain and fever followed by a generalized vesicular rash consistent with primary varicella infection. Within days of rash onset, she developed worsening right upper quadrant pain, jaundice, and progressive breathlessness. Examination revealed diffuse vesicular lesions in various stages of healing, icterus, tachypnea, and hypoxemia requiring NIV support. Laboratory investigations showed markedly elevated transaminases, hyperbilirubinemia, prolonged INR, and evolving hepatic encephalopathy, consistent with acute liver failure. Viral hepatitis panel was negative. Imaging demonstrated bilateral diffuse interstitial infiltrates suggestive of varicella pneumonia. <b>Discussion:</b> Severe adult varicella can lead to visceral dissemination, including hepatic necrosis and viral pneumonitis. Acute liver failure due to primary varicella is rare but recognized. Early initiation of IV acyclovir and aggressive supportive care significantly improve outcomes. <b>Conclusion:</b> Primary varicella infection in adults can rarely present with concurrent acute liver failure and severe pulmonary involvement. Prompt recognition, early antiviral therapy, and multidisciplinary critical care support are essential to improve survival.</p> |                                                   |