

# CASE BASED LEARNING MODULE 2

You are called to 4C to assess a baby at the request of the midwife regarding a sacral dimple. The baby was born at term to a 36 year old mother. No complications at delivery. Baby is now 22 hours old and has been behaving normally according to nurses.

What are the risk factors for spinal dysraphisms in newborns?

What features on physical exam will you look for?

## SCENARIO 1

Your exam of the lower limbs is normal. You see the dimple and it measures 1.5 cm from anal verge, sits in the midline and has a subtle Mongolian Spot above it. See Below:



1) What is your management plan?

2) Please read the following article

*Kriss and Desai, AJR, Am J Roentgenol 1998;171:1687-92*

3) What is the simple dimple rule?

4) Beyond what age is a sacral ultrasound unattainable and why?

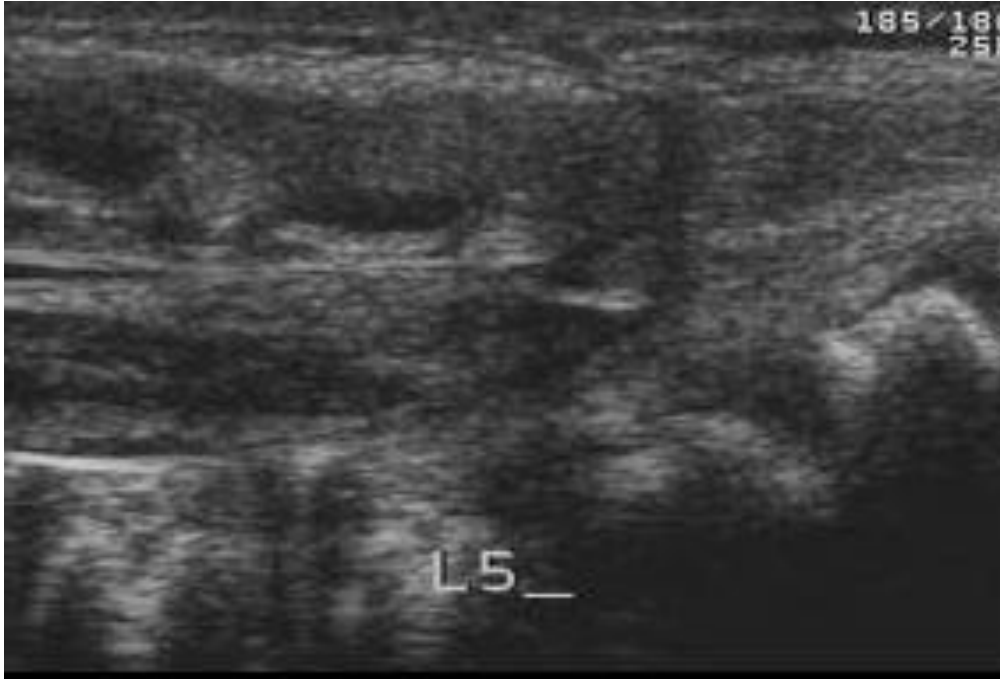
## SCENARIO 2

Your physical exam of the lower limbs is normal but exam of the back shows the dimple to be 3.7 cm from the anal verge with a skin tag beneath:



1) Discuss your management plan with respect to the dimple?

Results of the ultrasound return showing a tethered cord lying at L5 with a dermal sinus tract. See Below:



- 2) List the clinical complications associated with these two findings?
- 3) What are your next steps?
- 4) All of your investigations have been completed and all subspecialists are happy with baby being discharged with follow up. What parent education is required before discharge home?

References:

- 1) *Kriss and Desai, AJR, Am J Roentgenol 1998;171:1687-92*