***Clinical Case***

***Bilateral Congenital Thenar Aplasia*** *Bilateral Isolated Congenital Aplasia of the Abductor Pollicis Brevis and Opponens Pollicis*

***Dr. Ammar Yaseen MANSOUR***

 ***Numerically****, only two such cases existed in medical literature—with no third—until mine. While similar cases have been documented, most were unilateral. Thus, bilateral isolated congenital thenar aplasia now comprises exactly three cases worldwide.*

***Anatomically****, there is a congenital bilateral absence of the Abductor Pollicis Brevis (APB) and Opponens Pollicis (OP) muscles. Conversely, the Flexor Pollicis Brevis (FPB) and Adductor Pollicis (ADP) muscles remain intact.*

***Functionally****, this condition has no significant impact on thumb function specifically or on overall hand performance. Consequently, such cases typically do not require surgical intervention; see* ***Figure******(1).***

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| ***Figure (1): Bilateral Congenital Thenar Aplasia****In both hands, there is absence of the Abductor Pollicis Brevis (APB) muscle. The thenar eminence is also flat bilaterally. This congenital defect is isolated, with no associated anomalies in the hand or elsewhere in the body.**Sensation remains intact in the thumb and hand (normal sensation in the median nerve and ulnar nerve territories). However, thumb abduction is mildly compromised, though this has negligible overall impact on hand function.**.* |

***Note:*** *I significantly delayed presenting this case pending MRI imaging of both hands. However, the wait proved prolonged, and the patient did not return for the requested investigation—likely reassured about their functional prognosis.*

*The absence of both the Abductor Pollicis Brevis (APB) and Opponens Pollicis (OP) muscles was clinically inferred through direct inspection and kinetic examination. Identifying the presence of the Adductor Pollicis (ADP) muscle was straightforward. Conversely, the intact Flexor Pollicis Brevis (FPB) muscle was accounted for by the stability of the first metacarpophalangeal joint (1st MCP joint).*

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*In other contexts, you can also read the following articles:*

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***03/08/2015***