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CLOVE(S) syndrome: Expanding the acronym[†]

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No Abstract

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DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIER (DOI)10.1002/ajmg.a.32632 [About DOI](#)**ARTICLE TEXT****To the Editor:**

I read with interest the case report by Gucev et al. [2008] describing a case of CLOVE syndrome associated with complex anomalies of the central nervous system and generalized seizures.

The acronym CLOVE coined by Sapp et al. [2007] encompasses most of the common features seen in this recently described phenotype (congenital lipomatous overgrowth, vascular malformations, and epidermal nevi). Simultaneously and independently, we collected and analyzed a cohort of 18 patients with this syndrome, which have been presented at the 17th International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies (ISSVA) [Alomari, [2008]] and accepted for publication [Alomari, [in press]]. In our cohort, most of the central nervous manifestations were related to the spinal involvement such as spinal metamer high flow malformations, neural tube defects, tethered cord, spasticity, and scoliosis. Skeletal anomalies involving the trunk and both upper and lower extremities were among the most frequent findings in CLOVE syndrome.

Of particular interest, we found that the spinal manifestations of this syndrome, namely the presence of spinal high-flow lesions and scoliosis, were more common and morbid than the epidermal nevus represented by the "E" in CLOVE.

On the basis of these observations, we propose expansion of the acronym CLOVE to CLOVES to emphasize the common association with scoliosis, skeletal, and spinal anomalies as well as "seizures," as in this case described by Gucev et al. [2008]. Nosology is a dynamic process: As more information about a disease becomes available, the description,

definition, and diagnostic criteria may undergo revision [Snider, [2003]]. Such changes can potentially improve communication among clinicians dealing with these rare diseases.

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