To the Editor,

Recently, we cared for a 5-month-old baby boy born at 28 weeks gestation with a 1.9-mm patent ductus arteriosus (Fig 1). The parents were counselled regarding the plan for percutaneous device closure and asked to return 2 weeks later. Surprisingly, on repeat echocardiogram, the ductus arteriosus had closed.

As spontaneous ductal closure is unusual past the newborn period, we questioned the parents about the events in the preceding 2 weeks. The parents reported administering paracetamol 12 mg/kg/dose twice daily for 4 days because of fussiness and nasal congestion. In premature infants during the newborn period, indomethacin or ibuprofen are first-line agents utilised for ductal closure. In patients with contraindications to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, paracetamol at 15 mg/kg/dose every 6 hours for 48 hours has been used effectively as a second-line agent. Previous authors have suggested that paracetamol works by acting at the peroxidase segment of prostaglandin synthetase and inhibits activity.

To the best of our knowledge, our case is the first reported case of ductal closure associated with paracetamol outside of the newborn period. Further studies are needed to elucidate the role of paracetamol for ductal closure beyond the neonatal period.

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Conflicts of Interest

None.

Ethical Standards

The manuscript is original and has not been accepted or published elsewhere.

Cynthia H. Ho

Department of Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, Los Angeles, California United States of America

Department of Internal Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, Los Angeles, California United States of America

Correspondence to: C. H. Ho, MD, Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, 2020 Zonal Avenue, IRD Room 109 Los Angeles, CA 90033, United States of America. Tel: 323 226 3691; Fax: 323 226 3692; E-mail: cynho@usc.edu
Gracie Galiza
Department of Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine
Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, Los Angeles, California
United States of America

Mahmood Ebrahimi
Department of Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine
Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, Los Angeles, California
United States of America
Division of Cardiology, Keck School of Medicine
Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, Los Angeles, California
United States of America

Merujan Y. Uzunyan
Department of Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine
Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, Los Angeles, California
United States of America
Division of Cardiology, Keck School of Medicine
Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center, Los Angeles, California
United States of America

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