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### Scenario of the twins with suspected congenital rubella (CRS) in Yangon, Myanmar

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**Abstract:** Rubella is a common cause of childhood rash and fever. Congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) can lead to deafness, heart disease, cataracts, and other permanent manifestations. In order to identify the disease burden of rubella, a surveillance among infants in Yangon was conducted for two consecutive

December 2000 to December 2002, as a WHO-funded study. At 17 hospitals, the Special Care Baby Unit of the Central Women's Hospital, Yangon, Myanmar, 17 infants with suspected CRS. Interestingly, three sets of twins were reported. One ml of blood was collected from each infant after obtained and then tested for the presence of rubella antibody (Immunoglobulin M method), and for the presence of rubella viral RNA by the RT-PCR. Nucleotide sequencing and genotype identification of samples from the rubella RNA were performed. All 3 sets of twins were IgM negative. Rubella RNA was detected by RT-PCR in twin 1A who showed no obvious clinical features, twin 2B who had patent ductus arteriosus, splenomegaly and hepatomegaly. Sequences of PCR positive cases revealed genotype Ia sequences. Twin 1A was found to have deafness of the left ear on audiometry assessment conducted at 12 months of age. Both twins of twin set-2 were IgG positive at age 12 months and became negative by the age of 9 months. Both twins of twin set-3 presented with clinical features and died before 2 months of age, probably due to other infections. This is a different scenario of twins with suspected CRS. It is expected to serve as an addition to the medical literature as there were very few reports on

**Key words:** [Myanmar](#), [Congenital rubella syndrome \(CRS\)](#), [Twins](#)

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