

CASE REPORT

A FOREIGN BODY IN THE MALE URETHRA AND URINARY BLADDER

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Summary:

Self insertion of urethral or urinary bladder foreign body is well recognized but relatively uncommon. In this communication one such case is presented. The clinical presentation and management are discussed.

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Case Report:

A male person of 30 years married, father of 3 daughters presented with acute retention of urine and pain in supra-pubic region and urethra since last night with a history of electric wire stuck in the urethra. He is a vendor of vangari (old or broken household wire, plastic, glass or metallic materials etc.).

Physical examination was normal except a double coil electric wire tightly stuck in the urethra and about distal 5 cm of the wire was outside the meatus with bleeding through external urethral meatus. The wire was palpable throughout the whole length of the palpable urethra and urinary bladder was full due to retention of urine.



Fig.-1: Plain X-ray KUB showing foreign body (Flexible electric wire) in Pelvis Extending to the urethra.

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A provisional diagnosis of retention of urine due to stuck electric wire into the urethra was made. A gentle attempt to withdraw the electric wire was tried but failed. A plain x-ray KUB showed coiled wire in the urinary bladder and the urethra.

After all preparation patient was subjected to emergency operation under spinal anesthesia. After all aseptic precaution and draping a gentle traction applied to withdraw the wire again but in vain. A pfannenstiell incision was made, urinary bladder opened and the coiled stuck electric wire retrieved.



Fig.-2: Foreign body (Flexible electric wire) retrieved from urinary bladder.

No significant injury nor active bleeding detected in the urinary bladder. A retro-pubic drain was kept in situ and a foley's catheter was inserted through urethra and the wound was closed in layers. Post operative period was uneventful.

Discussion:

The variety of foreign bodies which have been removed from the urinary bladder is astonishing, eg. Manicure sticks, hair clips, hair pins and candle wax¹. The presence of such objects in the urinary bladder is usually accounted for urethral masturbation. They may cause several complications like urethral injury, stricture². There are reports of complications of foreign bodies in the urinary bladder causing injury to urinary bladder and peritonitis³. Why these are introduced?

There are several points to be considered. It is said that some are introduced in the course of inquisitive self exploration⁴. They may be introduced as contraceptive devices with the hope of plugging the urethra will block the emission of the ejaculate⁴. They may also be encountered in children and mentally abnormal individuals⁵. There are reports of paraplegic patient with low mental condition inserted hair pin in the urethra which was removed by forceps⁵. Self mutilation is reported among hospitalized emotionally ill patients and incarcerated criminal offenders⁶. Seeds of 'pea' as object of urinary retention is also reported⁷

In this case report after repeated questioning with due sympathy the patient confessed that he introduces double folded electric wire per urethra quite often for sexual gratification, but this time he failed to withdraw the wire. He was found to be non co-operative and mentally not sound. He was subjected to psychiatric consultation.

Conclusion:

Electric wire as a cause of urinary retention is uncommon and not found in literature. Easy availability from his daily dealing object favour him to use it as an object of urethral masturbation.

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