



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Surgical Management and Per-operative Findings of Women with Ectopic Pregnancy

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Abstract

Background: Management of ectopic pregnancy is very crucial issue for the survival of the patients. **Objective:** The purpose of the present study was to observe the surgical management and per-operative findings of women with ectopic pregnancy. **Methodology:** This cross-sectional study was carried out in the inpatient Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh from January 2009 to December 2009 for a period of one (1) year. All clinically suspected cases of ectopic pregnancy within the reproductive age admitted in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, Dhaka were included in the present study. In most of the cases, laparoscopy or laparotomy was done to confirm the diagnosis and manage the cases. **Result:** A total number of 48 cases of ectopic pregnancy women were recruited for this study. The highest number of ectopic pregnancy occurs in the ampulla of the fallopian tube which was 27(58.3%) cases. The right tube had been found to be affected more than the left which was 30(62.5%) cases and 18(37.5%) cases respectively. Most of the patients were presented with ruptured tubal pregnancy which was 30(62.5%) cases. Opposite tube was normal looking in 25(52.1%) cases. Unilateral salpingectomy and salpingectomy with contra lateral tubectomy were operated in 32(66.7%) cases and 10(20.8%) cases respectively. **Conclusion:** In conclusion most of the ectopic pregnancy is occurred in the site of ampulla of fallopian tube in right side which are mostly surgically managed by unilateral salpingectomy. [*Journal of Current and Advance Medical Research, January 2020;7(1):12-16*]

Keywords: Surgical management; per-operative findings; ectopic pregnancy

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Introduction

Surgery still remains the treatment of choice of ectopic pregnancy in most of the cases particularly in the developing countries¹. Surgery can be open or laparoscopic methods. Before deciding the final surgical treatment of the affected tube, the opposite tube and ovary should be examined and the procedure should be then taken account of the patient's age and future reproductive capacity as well as the nature of lesion². Laparotomy followed by salpingectomy of the affected side has been a standard modality of treatment of ruptured ectopic pregnancy for many years³. Now a day conservative surgery with the preservation of the fallopian tube like linear salpingostomy, linear salpingotomy, segmental resection and end to end anastomosis may be indicated in haemodynamically stable patient with an unruptured tubal ectopic pregnancy who wishes to preserve fertility⁴.

Laparotomy is called for as soon as the diagnosis of ruptured ectopic pregnancy is made and the patient is in hospital⁵. In stable patients, laparoscopy is preferred over laparotomy because of the associated reduction in morbidity and cost⁴. Blood transfusion may be required before, during and after operation but operation must not be deferred until the woman is in good condition. Resuscitation and operation at the same time can be lifesaving. Immediate laparotomy and clamping of the bleeding vessels may be the only means of saving life of moribund patient⁶.

Laparoscopic treatment of tubal pregnancy offers numerous advantages reducing operating time, hospital stay and improves cosmetic result⁷. Though there are few numbers of studies on Ectopic pregnancy in Bangladesh, findings from international studies and clinical research show that greater awareness of risk factors and improved diagnostic technology allow ectopic pregnancy to be identified before development of life threatening events and can reduce other associated complications⁸.

Laparoscopic management should be the first line of treatment, if possible. Laparoscopic surgery is usually performed when the patient is haemodynamically stable and the beta hCG is more than 6000 IU/L⁹. The history is suggestive of minimal pelvic adhesions and when the pregnancy is confined within the tube. This procedure is, however mostly dependent on experience and expertise of the surgeon and the equipment facilities available¹⁰. This present study was undertaken to observe the surgical management and per-operative

findings of women with ectopic pregnancy.

Methodology

This descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out in the inpatient Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh from January 2009 to December 2009 for a period of one (1) year. All clinically suspected cases of ectopic pregnancy within the reproductive age admitted in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital during the study period were included in the present study. All clinically suspected cases of ectopic pregnancy, patients at 15 to 45 years of age were included in this study. Patients other than ectopic pregnancy were excluded from this study. Sample size was calculated by using appropriate formula. The sampling technique was consecutive sampling technique and this purposive sampling technique was used as per inclusions and exclusion criteria. After taking detailed history with particular scrutinization of the menstrual, obstetric and contraceptive history, a thorough physical examination was performed, and ectopic pregnancy was diagnosed clinically in a large number of cases. In some cases, investigations like pregnancy test, beta-hCG hormone and ultrasonography were done to support the clinical diagnosis. Hemoglobin estimation and blood grouping was done in all cases. Finally in most of the cases, laparoscopy or laparotomy was done to confirm the diagnosis and manage the cases. Histopathological confirmation was done in most of the cases. Data collection was conducted by researcher herself. All data were compiled and edited meticulously by thorough checking and rechecking. All omissions and inconsistencies were corrected and were removed methodically. All data were recorded systematically in preformed data collection form (questionnaire) and quantitative data was expressed as mean and standard deviation and qualitative data was expressed as frequency distribution and percentage. Statistical analysis was performed by using SPSS for windows version 12.0. 95% confidence limit was taken. Probability value <0.05 was considered as level of significance. Prior to the commencement of this study, the research protocol were approved by the ethical committee (Local Ethical committee) of the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, Dhaka. Informed consent was taken from the respondents prior to interview.

Result

The distribution of ectopic pregnancy cases

according to sites of ectopic gestation was recorded. In this study the highest number of ectopic pregnancy occurs in the ampulla of the fallopian tube which was 27(58.3%) cases followed by isthmus and fimbrial part which were 14(27.8%) cases and 6(11.1%) cases respectively. However, only 1(2.8%) case was in the interstitial part (Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of Study Population According To Sites of Ectopic Gestation

Ectopic Gestation Site	Frequency	Percent
Ampulla	27	58.3
Isthmus	14	27.8
Fimbrial	6	11.1
Interstitial part	1	2.8
Total	48	100.0

The distribution of ectopic pregnancy cases according to the affected tubes were recorded. In this study right tube had been found to be affected more than the left which was 30(62.5%) cases and 18(37.5%) cases respectively (Table 2).

Table 2: Ectopic Pregnancy Cases According to the Affected Tubes

Affected Tubes	Frequency	Percent
Right tube	30	62.5
Left tube	18	37.5
Total	48	100.0

The distribution of ectopic pregnancy cases according to tubal status was recorded. Most of the patients were presented with ruptured tubal pregnancy which was 30(62.5%) cases and only 6(12.5%) cases were found un-ruptured. However, 12(25.0%) cases were diagnosed as to be tubal abortion (Table 3).

Table 3: Ectopic Pregnancy Cases According To Tubal Status

Status	Frequency	Percent
Ruptured	30	62.5
Abortion	12	25.0
Un-ruptured	6	12.5
Total	48	100.0

Opposite tube was normal looking in 25(52.1%) cases, whereas the tube was pathological in the rest

of 23(47.9%) case. However, inflamed, peritubal adhesions and hydrosalpinx were found in 12(25.0%) cases, 6(12.5%) cases and 4(8.3%) cases respectively. Tubercles on the tube or pelvic was found in only 1(2.1%) case (Table 4).

Table 4: Distribution of Ectopic Pregnancy Cases According To the Conditions of Opposite Tube

Condition	Frequency	Percent
Normal looking	25	52.1
Inflamed	12	25.0
Peritubal adhesions	6	12.5
Hydrosalpinx	4	8.3
Tubercles on the tube or pelvic	1	2.1
Total	48	100.0

The distribution of ectopic pregnancy cases was observed according to management. Salpingectomy with or without contra-lateral tubectomy was the most common operation done which was 42(87.5%). Within this unilateral Salpingectomy and Salpingectomy with contra lateral tubectomy were operated in 32(66.7%) cases and 10(20.8%) cases respectively. Only in 6(12.5%) cases linear salpingostomy were performed (Table 5).

Table 5: Distribution of Ectopic Pregnancy Cases According to Management

Types of Operation	Frequency	Percent
Unilateral Salpingectomy	32	66.7
Salpingectomy with contra lateral tubectomy	10	20.8
Linear Salpingostomy	6	12.5
Total	48	100.0

Discussion

Whenever tubal pregnancy is diagnosed or suspected the patient should be admitted to hospital immediately, provided that she is not in a state of shock. It is preferable that shock must be treated immediately before she is moved.

Among all of the patients laparotomy has been done with resuscitative measures if has been needed and per operative findings are evaluated. At the time of operation, tubal ectopic pregnancy is found to be more on right side tube (61.0%) than the left tube (39.0%). Most of the patients (81.0%) have ruptured tubal pregnancy. Only in 8.0% cases tubes

are distended and unruptured; however, 11.0% cases are diagnosed to be tubal abortion. There are 58.0% cases ampullary; 28.0% cases are isthmic; 11.0% cases are fimbrial and 3.0% cases are interstitial location. Almost Similar observation has been made by Kulsum¹¹ and Zabin¹² in two local studies. Archibong et al¹³ has found common site of implantation in ampulla 80.0% followed by isthmus (11.0%), fimbria (4.0%), cornu (2.0%) and interstitial (3.0%). Right tube has been found to be affected more in many reports. In this country ectopic tubal pregnancy has been found ruptured in many of the cases. This may be due to the fact that the study patients have come to the hospital at a later stage and the adequate facilities are not available to diagnose the case at an early stage.

The other sided tube are examined and has been found in 58.0% cases normal looking. In all other cases tubes are found clinically pathological like inflamed, adhesions and hydrosalpinx. Almost similar observation has been made by Kulsum¹¹. There are 3.0% cases where tubercles are found on the tubes and in the pelvis. These cases are later confirmed histopathologically as tuberculosis. In this study there are no mortality from ectopic pregnancy during the study period.

During laparotomy the appropriate surgery for the cases are performed and unilateral salpingectomy has been done in 61.0% of cases and 19.0% of patients are operated salpingectomy with contralateral tubectomy as the patients are parous and have completed family. There are various means of treating ectopic pregnancy by laparoscopy. This includes laparoscopic linear salpingostomy, salpingotomy, salpingectomy and direct injection of cytotoxic agents¹⁴. There is reduced operating time, hospital stay, treatment cost, earlier return to activity, improved cosmetic result, less post-operative requirement of analgesia and morbidity in laparoscopy¹⁵. It is also preferable in cases of cornual or interstitial pregnancy. In a local study by Kulsum¹¹ 91.0% cases, salpingectomy has been performed.

Most of the patients presented with ruptured or grossly damaged tube where conservative treatment is not possible. Only in 12.0% case linear salpingostomy has been done where there is unruptured ampullary tubal ectopic pregnancy. In this study salpingo-oophorectomy has not been done in any case; however, Zabin¹² has shown that salpingo-oophorectomy has been done in 19.0% cases. Therefore, the present declining rate of salpingo-oophorectomy may be due to the fact that conservation of ovary is getting more attention than

removal¹¹. There is no post-operative complication in the present study population.

The salpingostomy is performed with a small (less than 3cm), intact ampullary pregnancy¹⁶. A linear incision is made on the antimesenteric border directly over the site of ectopic pregnancy. After removing the products by fingers, scalpel handle or by suction, the incision line is kept open to be healed by secondary intention¹⁷. Haemostasis is achieved by electrocautery or laser. Recurrent ectopic is less, compared to salpingotomy. Both methods yield similar subsequent pregnancy rates of 40.0 to 90.0% cases. In unruptured tubal ectopic pregnancy and wishes to retain her fertility linear salpingostomy is the choice. This is of choice in isthmic pregnancy. A segmental resection with Primary microsurgical re-anastomosis has also been advocated but has the same result as linear salpingotomy and the latter is an easier and shorter procedure. This microsurgical reanastomosis after segmental resection of tube may be done when the affected tube is the only functioning tube and preservation of future fertility important in order to keep part of that tube¹⁸.

With fimbrial pregnancy, products of conception are often visible at the distal end of the tube, which may be plucked out. Milking the pregnancy through the abdominal ostium (transfimbrial extraction) has been advocated in the past but associated with persistent trophoblast and sometimes need for re-exploration. However, the risk of recurrent ectopic pregnancy is twice as high as that with linear salpingotomy; therefore, this procedure is now obsolete¹⁵. Removal of part or all of the affected tube is the usual procedure, if the patient has completed her family, if the tube appears to be grossly damaged or if ectopic pregnancy has recurred in a tube already treated conservatively. In the case of interstitial pregnancy the cornu of the uterus is excised as well. Practically in all cases the ovary can be conserved even though the surrounding blood clot makes it at first look beyond hope.

Unilateral salpingectomy reduces the chances of pregnancy by approximately one half⁵. If unilateral salpingo-oophorectomy is carried out, the chances of subsequent pregnancy are double because ovulation must then always take place from the ovary, which still has its oviduct. It follows that in a woman who is particularly anxious about future fertility it may be better to sacrifice than to save the ovary on an affected side. However, the developments of in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer and of microsurgery make conservation of

the ovaries even more important⁹. Presently, salpingo-oophorectomy is never recommended unless the ovary itself is grossly diseased or damaged. If culdotomy has been performed for diagnostic purpose and the affected adnexum is found easily accessible salpingectomy or salpingo-oophorectomy can be carried out by the vaginal route. However this should be generally avoided because it does not permit proper assessment of the opposite tube and ovary, nor adequate peritoneal toilet. Before any operation is concluded, free blood and clots are removed from the peritoneal cavity. And before closing abdomen sometimes a drain tube is kept in situ. As soon as the haemoperitoneum is cleared, the patient usually follows a remarkably rapid recovery¹⁴.

The important feature of cornual pregnancy is that the sac is surrounded by myometrium and it can contain the pregnancy for a longer time than can the tube or ovary. Rupture of the horn therefore does not usually take place until 12th to 20th weeks but when it does, there is nearly always severe bleeding which make the condition extremely dangerous¹⁶. In some respects, cornual pregnancy resembles the interstitial type tubal pregnancy and they can be confused at operation. A distinguishing feature from interstitial pregnancy is the insertion of the round ligament, which is always lateral to the gestational sac in cornual pregnancy¹⁸. Excision of the rudimentary horn together with the pregnancy is the done usual. Sometimes hysterectomy is needed.

Conclusion

In conclusion most of the ectopic pregnancy is occurred in the site of ampulla of fallopian tube. Furthermore right side tube is the most common site of ectopic pregnancy than the left side. Most of the patients are presented with ruptured tubal pregnancy. In this study majority of the study population are surgically managed by unilateral salpingectomy followed by salpingectomy with contra lateral tubectomy. The number of cases in this study is comparatively small for inferences; therefore it should be reviewed by more detailed works with a large number of cases and nationwide.

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