



ACUTE URINARY RETENTION CAUSED BY HAEMATOCOLPOS, A RARE PRESENTATION OF IMPERFORATED HYMEN

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Background

Imperforated hymen is an uncommon anomaly of the genital tract causing obstruction of the menstrual flow. Accumulation of blood in the vagina (hematocolpos) or in the uterus (hematometra) causes cyclical abdominal pain.

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Case Report

A 19 year old female with a background history of chromosome 13q deletion and severe intellectual disability presented to the emergency department with;

- 1) Acute urinary retention
- 2) High grade fever
- 3) Worsening abdominal pain & distension

*Recent history of admission due to chronic constipation.

On examination: Secondary sexual characteristics Tanner stage 3, distended abdomen with protrusion of the umbilicus.

Vaginal inspection: Anterior vaginal wall was seen prolapsing to the introitus. Bedside USG showed a distended bladder. **CT scan** of the abdomen and pelvis revealed following 02 contiguous large abdominal masses:

- 1) A large haematometrocolpos measuring 278x37x91mm was reported.
- 2) Distended Bladder upto epigastric region, The mass effect caused urethral blockage, bilateral hydronephrosis, and recanalisation of the urachus with risk of obstructive uropathy and bladder perforation.



CT scan sagittal image shows the Haematometrocolpos



CT Scan Axial cut showing Haematocolpos +distended bladder

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Results

Under general anaesthesia, surgical drainage following a cruciate incision of the hymen 1.7L of thick haematometrocolpos was drained and catheter then drained 1.8L of urine. She was discharged on day 3 post-operatively and later put on Combined Oral Contraception pills. She is currently doing well.

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Conclusions

Imperforated hymen is rare and can easily be missed. In this case, the diagnosis was delayed by few weeks with diagnosis of constipation as a cause of abdominal distension on her previous admission. The importance of suspicion for this condition, a good menstrual history and physical examination in adolescent girl should be emphasised for clinicians including non-gynaecologists.