

CASES OF PLACENTA PRAEVIA, 1939-1948

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Placenta praevia is still one of the major complications of pregnancy; but modern management has minimised the terror that confronted the obstetricians of the past. Early diagnosis, hospitalisation, choice of correct treatment, and the ease of blood and plasma transfusions have decreased the mortality rate to a considerable degree.

Total number of deliveries for 10 years, 1939-1948, was 9,044. Among these, 75 cases of placenta praevia were admitted to this hospital. Of these, one was admitted moribund and died undelivered, duration of stay in the hospital 15 minutes.

Incidence: 1 in every 120 deliveries. The incidence for four other mission hospitals are as follows:—1 in 120; 1 in 126; 1 in 118; and 1 in 105.

Warning Haemorrhages.

Eleven patients were admitted in the ante-natal period with warning haemorrhages, and were treated with conservative measures. 5 remained in the hospital till the time of delivery. 4 among these had second bout of severe haemorrhage. 3 were cases of central placenta praevia, and the mode of delivery was Caesarean section. The fourth one was a case of marginal placenta, mode of deli-

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very—vaginal (artificial rupture of membrane and application of Willett's forceps). The remaining one had very slight bleeding when she started labour pains, and had fair amount of bleeding when she was 3½th dilated. Vaginal examination revealed lateral placenta. After artificial rupture of membrane had been done she delivered normally.

6 among 11 were discharged after 2 weeks rest in the hospital, 4 returned for delivery. 3 among them were marginal and 1 lateral. All 4 cases returned with fair amount of ante-partum haemorrhage. The other two could not be traced.

Recurrent Placenta Praevia.

1. A seventh para who had marginal placenta praevia in 1940 was admitted in 1943 for the next delivery again with marginal placenta praevia.

2. A fourth para with marginal placenta praevia in 1941 was admitted in 1946 for her sixth delivery again with marginal placenta praevia, the fifth confinement being normal in 1944.

Associated Complications.

1. A second para who had a normal delivery but stillbirth for her first confinement, had placenta praevia complicated by accidental haemorrhage. The findings were as follows: albumen, no casts; oedema of lower limbs; and blood pressure, 120/75.

2. 4 cases had albumin in the urine but no other abnormalities.

50% of the above cases were complicated with anaemia, Hb % (Sahli) being 7 and 8 gms.

Abnormal Presentations.

Transverse lie	2 cases
Transverse lie with prolapse of cord	1 case
Breech	8 cases
Persistent occipito-posterior	1 case

Onset of Bleeding in Placenta Praevia.

Two among these cases started bleeding before the viable stage, 26 weeks, the type of placenta praevia being central. 7 cases started bleeding after 32 weeks, 1 among these was marginal, 2 lateral and the rest central; 2 after 34 weeks, both being marginal; 58 cases were between 35 and 36 weeks, 13 being cases of central placenta praevia.

3 cases had bleeding during 38th week and they were marginal; 2 at full term, 1 lateral and 1 marginal.

Parity and Placenta Praevia

Central—	2 among the 20 were primigravidae.
Marginal—	5 among the 36 were primigravidae.
Lateral—	3 among the 18 were primigravidae.

Morbidity.

2 cases had thrombophlebitis in puerperium, 1 was central and the other lateral. With good diet of high protein value, chemotherapy and paravertebral block, they were discharged cured from the hospital.

1 had putrid endometritis as well as general peritonitis. This was a case of central placenta praevia and died on the 6th day after delivery.

Maternal Mortality.

6.5% including the patient who was admitted moribund.

Stillbirths and neo-natal deaths:—
Stillbirths 30. Foetal heart was absent in 12 cases, and 7 were premature.

Live births 12. 9 among them were premature. 3 died within 48 hours.

Before the viable stage 2.

Foetal mortality 45.5%.

PLACENTA PRAEVIA: 1939 to 1948

I. Central Placenta Praevia

	Mothers			Remarks.	Babies			Remarks
	No. of cases	Living	Expired		Living	Expired	Still births	
Central Placental Praevia	20	16	4	1. Moribund	10	1 Kahn positive.	6	2 were miscarriages.
Complete	12			2. Shock				1 died undelivered.
Incomplete	5			3. Peritonitis and Kahn positive.				2 were with absent foetal heart. 2 premature.
Miscarriage	2			4. Incomplete central. Hb, 20%. Internal podalic version done. Died ½ hour later.				2: foetal heart present on admission but could not be heard after they were in labour for a few hours.
Undelivered (admitted oribund. Expired after 15 minutes.)	1							
Caesarean Section (All Complete) (Incomplete)	12	10	2	2 & 3 (remarks as shown above)	9	1 Kahn positive	2	Foetal heart absent.
Artificial rupture of membrane	1	1	..		1	..	..
Artificial rupture of membrane & Willett's	2	2	..		..	..	2	1 premature.
Artificial rupture of membrane and bringing down a leg	1	1	..		..	..	1	Premature.
Internal Podalic Version	1	..	1	As shown against (4) Transverse lie with prolapsed cord.	..	..	1	

Total 17 plus 2 miscarriages plus 1 who died undelivered.

II Marginal Placenta Praevia

	Mothers			Remarks.	Babies			Remarks
	No. of cases	Living	Expired		Living	Expired	Still births	
Marginal Placenta Praevia								
Artificial rupture of membranes	9	9	..		8	..	1 2	among 8 were premature.
Artificial rupture of membranes and Willett's forceps	15	14	1		5 (1 twin)	..	11	7 with absent foetal heart. Foetal heart present for 4 among which 2 were premature.
Artificial rupture of membranes and internal podalic version	4	3	..	For 1 patient internal podalic version was done when Willett's failed.	1	..	2	Foetal heart absent.
Artificial rupture of membranes and bringing down a leg	4	3	1	Had severe P. P. H. All the methods to check the complication failed.	1	..	3	1 among 3 premature. The other 2 with absent foetal heart.
Artificial rupture of membranes and low forceps	1	1	..		..	..	1	Foetal heart absent.
Packing and artificial rupture of membrane	1	1	..		1	..	..
Packing and internal podalic version	1	1	..		1	..	..
Packing with normal delivery	1	1	..	Membranes absent and Os 1/5 admission	1	..	..
Unaided delivery	1	1	..		1	..	..

Total 36 cases. On 1 patient two types of operations were performed.

III Lateral Placenta Praevia

	Mothers			Remarks.	Babies			Remarks
	No. of cases	Living	Expired		Living	Expired	Still births	
Lateral Placenta Praevia	19							
Artificial rupture of membrane	9	9	..		4 1 pre.	..	.. Out of 5, 3 were premature. The other 2 with absent foetal heart.
Artificial rupture of membrane and Willelt's forceps	3	3	..		3	..	..
Artificial rupture of mebrane and bringing down a leg	2	2	..		..	1	1
Artificial rupture of membrane and (External Version to Vertex)	1	1	..	Transverse	..	..	1
Internal Podalic Version	1	1	..	Transverse	..	..	1 Premature.
Artificial rupture of membrane and low forceps	2	2	..		2	..	..
Unaided delivery	1	1	..		..	..	1 Foetal heart absent.
Total	.. 19	..	..			