

AMENORRHOEA ASSOCIATED WITH RETENTION OF FERTILITY

by

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It is extremely unusual to notice women who have never menstruated and still conceived several times during their reproductive period. The cyclical endometrial changes in such cases would continue but bleeding is not exhibited as an external sign of menstruation. Rarely, such cases are reported and properly investigated to find out the underlying disturbed function.

It is theoretically possible that regular cyclical changes may take place, ovulation may occur, but due to certain vascular defects, bleeding may not be shown at the end of the cycle. The cyclical changes in these individuals can be demonstrated by endometrial biopsies and vaginal smears. This sort of cycle is normally seen in Macaque monkey.

Case Report

Mrs. G.B., age 38 years, came for advise and treatment of obesity. Her weight was 208 lbs. and she was getting slightly breathless after climbing the staircase. She had no other physical complaints. She had been married 15 years and had no children. She had no history of major sickness in childhood or at the adult age. She gave history that she had never menstruated throughout her life, even though several times hormone therapy was given to her. Now as age was advancing she was worried whether she would ever bear a child. She was getting a lump in the left

breast off and on for the last three years. for which biopsy was taken which showed absence of any malignant lesion, but only glandular hyperplasia.

Clinical Examination

The external genitals were quite normal. Vaginal examination showed uterus to be of slightly smaller size than the normal. It was anteverted and mobile. The fornices were clear and cervix was quite normal. Palpation did not reveal any abnormality in the true pelvis.

Investigations

The basal temperature was taken which showed insignificant rise of temperature and revealed irregular signs of ovulation on rare occasions only. B.M.R. test was minus eleven and thus showed that metabolism was slightly reduced. Repeated endometrial biopsies mostly showed proliferative pattern. On one single occasion a secretory pattern was noticed. Husband's semen analysis was within normal limits and showed nothing abnormal.

Personal History

During the last seven years she was treated with estrogens, progesterone, gonadotrophins and thyroid. But after the treatment very rarely she showed a spot of blood as a menstrual discharge.

Her marital life was quite happy and there were no coital difficulties or personal discord.

Family History

She had two sisters both enjoying perfectly normal health, one had two children and the other had three children at

the interval of 5 and 7 years. None of them ever menstruated throughout their life time.

Treatment

She was treated with dietetic restriction, amphetamine sulphate, chlorothiazide and thyroid. Within three months she reduced 30 lbs. in weight and started feeling more fit to do her usual household work. Her breast trouble never recurred during the period under observation.

She was then kept on steroid therapy along with thyroid and antiobesity regime for six months. At the end of this period when she was examined about a fortnight back, she showed clinical evidence of ten

weeks' pregnancy. Her A.Z. test was done, which showed positive result.

Comments

It is extremely rare to find a case of amenorrhoea associated with retention of fertility. This case not only shows amenorrhoea throughout her life time and pregnancy taking place at a very elderly age but also gives family history in which her two sisters never menstruated and still gave birth to several children. It suggests possibility of a genetic pathology.