

HYDROPIC DEGENERATION WITH FULL-TERM PREGNANCY

(A Case Report)

by

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Hydatidiform mole is commoner in the east than in the west. Its association with a foetus of 2 to 3 months' gestation is not uncommon, but hydropic degeneration of placenta in the presence of a normal living foetus at term is very rare. Hobday and Bland in a recent analysis could find only 10 cases in the literature of which only one was reported from India.

Case Report

Mrs. B. S., aged 23 years, para 4 and 0, (Reg. No. 4978) was admitted in the Rao J. N. Roy Hospital, Berhampur, in labour as an emergency. Her past obstetrical history was all normal deliveries with no history of hydatidiform molar pregnancy. The labour was normal and a living baby was born—the baby cried just after birth. The placenta was expelled normally. The placenta was normal in size. Macroscopic examination of the placenta showed cystic areas (big and small) at one part of the placenta; there was no definite demarcation line between the normal placenta and the part showing cystic degeneration—the small cysts were 'grape-like' while the bigger ones looked like placental cysts.

Histological report: of both small and big cysts: section shows structure of chorionic villi with hydropic degeneration.

There was no post-partum haemorrhage and the uterus involuted normally. She was discharged home with the advice to report for follow up.

The patient did not turn up till 2 months later when she complained of irregular bleeding since last child-birth. Clinical examination did not reveal any abnormality. She was straightaway taken in for curettage which was done the next day. Curettings were sent for histological examination, for any evidence of chorionepithelioma. Section report shows structure of myometrium showing evidence of stromatosis. No chorionic tissue seen. Irregular bleeding persisted for another 2 weeks after curettage and the urine was sent for male toad test—the test was negative both quantitatively and qualitatively. The bleeding stopped after this spontaneously and she has been under observation from time to time to consider hysterectomy in case of any recurrence of vaginal bleeding.

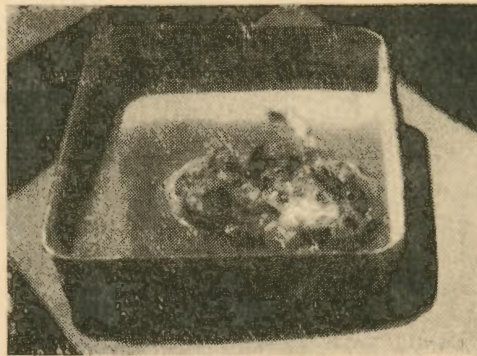


Fig. 1

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Discussion

Hydatidiform mole associated with full-term pregnancy and living foetus is rare. Hobday and Bland quote Beischer who gives an incidence of 1 in 37,000 deliveries. They give their incidence as 1 in 50,000 deliveries. This district hospital has specialist service for the last 6 years only and during this period no such case has been recorded. During this period a total of about 20,000 patients have been delivered here.

Bland considered these cases as pleural pregnancy — one of the twins undergoing hydropic degeneration. In this case there was no demarcation between normal placenta and the hydropically degenerated area and it

seems reasonable to conclude this as partial hydropic degeneration of a single placenta.

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