

## LEECH BITE AN UNUSUAL CAUSE OF VAGINAL BLEEDING

by

CH. MANGLEM SINGH,\* M.D.

KH. TOMBA SINGH,\*\* M.D.

N. NABAKISHORE SINGH,\*\*\* M.B.B.S.

S. BIJOY SINGH,\*\*\*\* D.C.H., M.D.

P. NISHIKANTA SINGH,† M.D.

and

S. K. BHATTACHARYYA,†† F.R.C.D.G., F.I.C.S.

Vaginal bleeding due to leech bite is an unusual occurrence which is rarely reported in the literature. However, it is frequently encountered amongst the children and young girls in Manipur. Even though the bleeding apparently looks minimal, at times it may endanger life (host) due to continuous oozing of blood if not treated promptly. In the present study 3 cases were admitted in a moribund state requiring immediate blood transfusion of more than one unit. Hence such bleeding due to leech bite cannot be ignored.

### Observation and Discussion

Twenty-one such cases were admitted and treated in the Regional Medical College, Imphal Manipur from April, 1977 to April, 1980. All the cases were admitted as emergency patients for vaginal bleeding following leech bite and some of the

cases even gave the history of entering of the leech in the vagina.

The bleeding was mild to moderate in most of the cases except 3 cases who were admitted in shock with extreme pallor. The age group ranged from 2 years to 50 years with maximum incidence between 6 years to 10 years (47.6%). Most of the patients belonged to low socio-economic group (66.6%). In Manipur most of the people take bath in stagnant ponds, rivers and lakes where leeches usually abound. This is more so in cases of rural community where tapwater is not freely available. All the cases were managed conservatively with haemostatics, antibiotics and local vaginal packing with acriflavine mixed with styptics. Three cases required blood transfusion over and above this regime. The interesting part of this study is that no leech was found in any of the cases. Only a bleeding area typical of leech bite was could be seen.

\*Lecturer (Obst. & Gynec.)

\*\*Asstt. Prof. (Obst. & Gynec.)

\*\*\*Chief Resident (Obst. & Gynec.)

\*\*\*\*Lecturer Paediatrics P.P.P.

†Asstt. Prof. (Anaesthesiology)

††Prof. & Head (Obst. & Gynec.)

Regional Medical College, Imphal, Manipur.

Accepted for publication on 19-8-80.

### Acknowledgement

The authors are grateful to the Principal and Medical Superintendent, Regional Medical College, Hospital for allowing us to use the hospital records.