

POLYMASTIA

(A Case Report)

by

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Polymastia is a very rare anomaly. In the present communication the anomaly is reported which was accidentally discovered during tubectomy operation.

CASE REPORT

Mrs. B.M., 32 years, Hindu, housewife, mother of 2 children was admitted with labour pains at Saithia Government Hospital on 20-6-81. She was an unbooked case but received 2 doses of tetanus toxoid injections which were administered by 'field staff' of the P.H.C. She delivered normally on 21-6-81. She was put up for minilap sterilization on 23-6-81.

When she was undressed at O.T., an additional breast was discovered on uppermost part of lateral aspect of left thigh (Figs 1 and 2). This was, however, missed at routine examination when she was admitted in the hospital. The entire breast measured 6 cm. in diameter. Nipple was present in the central part of the swelling and this was surrounded by typical areola. Scanty amount of milk could be expressed from the ectopic breast.

Tubectomy was done in the usual way and thereafter the ectopic breast was excised. Both the procedures were carried out under local

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anaesthesia and sedation. On enquiry she admitted that the swelling used to get enlarged during each pregnancy and was associated with secretion of some milky fluid during late pregnancy and puerperium. Nylon stitches were removed on 8th post-operative day. She went home on 10th post-operative day. The excised breast tissue was subjected to histopathological examination and the report turned out to be that of normal breast tissue (Fig. 3).

Discussion

Human breasts develop from cephalic part of milk ridges. Supernumerary breasts are seen usually somewhere along the 'milk line' extending from axillae to inguinal region. More rarely accessory breasts have been found on cheeks, neck, buttock, thigh, femoral triangle and vulva, (Singh, 1976). Recently ectopic breasts have been described in males at arm, elbow and axillae (Chatterjee and Kumar, 1980). Dawn (1981) reported one case of polythelia (additional nipple) over the lower part of right breast. The said patient had unification operation for double uterus. In the present case the supernumerary breast was present in the uppermost part of lateral aspect of left thigh.

Acknowledgement

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2. Dawn, C S: Professor of Obstetrics, Eden Hospital, Medical College, Calcutta (Personal communication).

References

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3. Singh, I: "Human Embryology"—The Macmillan Co. of India, 1976, Calcutta, p. 101.

See Figs. on Art Paper III