

LEIOMYOMA OF THE FEMALE URETHRA

(A Case Report)

by

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Introduction

Although malignant lesions of the urethra have been reported in the literature, benign tumours of the urethra are less often discussed. Of all the urethral tumours, a leiomyoma is the least common. So far only 16 case reports of leiomyoma of the urethra have appeared in the literature. Marshall *et al* (1960) reviewed 394 tumours of the urethra seen during a period of 26 years. They found 356 caruncles, 22 malignant lesions, 6 polyps, 7 papillomas and 3 haemangiomas, but no leiomyoma.

Because of its rarity we have been prompted to report the following case to literature.

CASE REPORT

A 21 years old Hindu women reported for dysuria and frequency of 3 months duration. Examination revealed a 2 x 1.5 cms firm mass protruding through the urethral meatus. Routine blood, urine and stool examinations were all within normal limits. Using a nasal speculum, the tumour which was pedunculated and arising from distal urethra was excised and base of the tumour was cauterised. The post-operative recovery of the patient was uneventful. Histological examination of the excised mass revealed a urethral leiomyoma.

Summary

A case of urethral leiomyoma is reported.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE IMPAIRED PHYSICIAN—Edited by Stephen C. Scheiber and Brian B. Doyle. Published by Plenum Medical Book Company, New York and London, 1983.

The book is unique and remarkable because it looks at the doctor who is mentally and emotionally functioning at a disadvantage due to ill health, maladjustment at home, as well as due to stresses and strain of medical education and practice.

The book tries to identify factors causing "Impaired" physician and suggests treatment for him so that the said physician can be made a useful member of a society once again, and he develops the much needed cordial relation with his patients and colleagues.

The space allotted in this book to problems affecting women physicians will be of special interest to all in our country, where women doctors are so commonplace. The traditional responsibilities of taking care of home and older parents, the need for marriage and raise family and attention towards the spouse together with pursuit of medical education in practice are intricate problems which women have to face more frequently and more strongly than men. These are all elaborated in the book.

The next presentation under six major groups of emotional problems of physicians, medical school and the impaired physician, prevention and treatment of the impaired physician, special problems in treating physicians, the impaired physician: a collective responsibility, and recommendation, divided into 14 chapters and consisting of 185 pages of reading material in addition to 13 pages of exhaustive bibliography, is a monumental work of 12 contributors belonging essentially to the speciality of psychiatry. The book depicts, for the first time, in such a manner as this, the concern of physicians for fellow physicians' professional impairment (drugs and alcohol, depression and suicide, and marital problems).

The authors are very right in that pre-faced statement that the book will be useful not only to medical doctors but to people belonging to many other professions as well. The book therefore deserves a wide reading public.

Though the book is written with the U.S. background much can be said similarly about physicians in India. The book therefore provides a stimulating eye-opener.

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