

VASA PRAEVIA

by

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Introduction

There are many causes of bleeding in Ante Partum Haemorrhage viz accidental haemorrhage, placenta praevia, Vasa previa is also a rare cause of bleeding.

When the cord gets its insertion at the periphery of the placenta (Battledoor insertion) or in the membranes itself (Velamentous insertion) the vessels in the membranes run across the internal os. When the cervix dilates there could be bleeding. Macaffe found that an abnormally low insertion of the cord was a major cause of foetal loss (27%) in placenta praevia.

In vasa praevia, the foetus bleeds and by the time the child is removed it is practically exsanguinated.

HISTORY:

Mrs. X, 30 years old, gravida 2, para was admitted with history of vaginal bleeding and

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amenorrhoea of 9 months on 2-4-83 at 9 p.m. The patient was in labour for the last 12 hours. She had bled twice. The bleeding was of moderate variety. Then she was taken to a general hospital. There the doctor diagnosed as placenta praevia. Then patient was shifted to my clinic.

General Examinations:

Patient was moderately built, pulse 80 per minute and blood-pressure 120/80 pulse 80/minute.

Management:

Immediately caesarean section was done. A live male baby was extracted at 11 p.m. Child cried immediately after birth. Placenta was removed very carefully because it was very thin and occupied a very large area of the lower uterine segment. Post operative period was uneventful. Child was very anaemic and was looked after by a paediatrician.

Placenta was bilobed, cord had peripheral insertion to the placenta (Battledoor insertion). A thick membrane was present in between the lobes of the placenta and that membrane also contained vessels (see Figure). The membrane was very thick and tough containing big vessels and some vessels were torn.

See Fig. on Art Paper VII