

THE DECEPTIVE ▼

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Introduction

Intrauterine devices are simple means of contraception and best suited for our conditions and the type of patients we have to deal with, since once in place patient does not have to worry about it unless it gives rise to some complications but some times this simple measure can fail in its mission and pregnancies do occur along with it but the association of pregnancy in multiple devices and fibroid is rare.

Case Report

Patient S. M., 32 years, reported to medical college hospital for irregular vaginal bleeding. Patient had 5 children and the last labour was 1½ year back after which instead of accepting a permanent method of contraception she had opted for an intrauterine device.

Uterus was found to be lodging a pregnancy of 12-14 weeks. In addition a fibroid was also felt distinctly. Since now the patient was willing for sterilization hysterotomy was planned. A plain skiagram taken to confirm the presence of the device showed not only one but multiple devices (Fig. 1).

Hysterotomy and sterilization was performed under spinal anaesthesia and the uterus was evacuated of three lippes loops and a pregnancy of about 14 weeks (Fig. 2). The single fibroid could also be enucleated without an additional blood loss.

Retrospectively, when the history was taken, it was found that the patient was absolutely un-

aware of multiple loops insertions but did accept her three visits to the health visitor. When she went for her post insertion check up after a month, according to her the LHV examined her with the help of the instruments which caused pain and the examination was associated with a momentary attack of dizziness. This certainly is suggestive of a second insertion. Patient was reassured that the device was very much in place and that there is no cause of concern.

Since she started spotting off and on after this examination she requested for the removal of the device but her requests were turned down. This compelled her to visit another LHV at a different place who applied some "Medicine" internally with the help of the instruments. This medicine was obviously nothing but another device inserted without the knowledge of the patient. After about a month or so she started having nausea, the bleeding still continued so finally she came to medical college hospital.

Discussion

A case of pregnancy with multiple intra-uterine devices and a fibroid is presented. The antifertility effect of the device apart from other factors is directly proportional to the surface area of the contact of the device with that of the endometrium but in this case inspite of three devices pregnancy did occur defying the above fact and also the fact that pregnancy and fibroids that too in a multipara usually do not go hand in hand.

The case also throws light on the darker aspect of the implementation of family planning programme. Multiple insertions can occur under following circumstances

when (1) the initially inserted loop is translocated (2) The family planning worker is not competent enough to search and remove the lost loop (3) Instead of directing the patient to a competent doctor another loop is inserted, this being an addition to

the target allocated to her.

The whole episode is a culmination of the procedure being in the hands of incompetent persons who in order to avoid rebukes and fulfill their targets are forced to resort to such means.

See Fig. on Art Paper V

