

INSERTION OF LAMINARIA TENT IN URETHRA FOR PROCURING ABORTION

(A Case Report)

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SUMMARY

A case of urethral obstruction due to wrongly introduced laminaria tent is presented. Unless quackery is banned by law many a such mishaps which unnecessarily increase the maternal morbidity and mortality might be encountered.

Introduction

Though termination of pregnancy has been legalized, majority of the patients do not like to come to the Government hospitals since it risks their identity being disclosed. The poor patients under such conditions take refuge in quacks who procure the abortions with abortifacient pastes, foreign bodies, intrauterine devices etc. Majority of them are able to seek their goal since by experience they get familiar with the local anatomy and the technique of performing induction but a novice may land into precarious conditions as had happened in this case. The tragic part of the case being that the experimental animal was his own better half who had to undergo all the sufferings due to the ignorance of her so called 'doctor' husband.

Case Report:

Patient R 24 years was brought for retention of urine. Local Examination showed the uterus to be of normal size. There were bruises around the external urinary meatus but there was no history of any local injury and the bladder was full upto umbilicus.

An attempt to catheterize the bladder with rubber catheter failed. In the urethra a metal catheter was passed to overcome the obstruction and catheterize the bladder but it also failed. The husband at this stage stated that he had used laminaria tent for "inducing abortion". All these days the procedure was carried out by a Dai hired by him. In her absence he did it himself but the gradually increasing discomfort to the patient compelled him to pull out the threads which gave way and he was unable to remove the tent (Fig. 1). Under general anaesthesia a suprapubic cystostomy was performed and the tent—part of which was obliterating the urethra was pulled out.

Patient was discharged on 8th postoperative day with the advice to the husband never to perform the abortion in future.

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See Fig. on Art Paper VII