

Pregnancy Complicated By Transverse Myelitis.

Sundaravalli, Valli, Subbulaxmi T

Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Government Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore, Chennai - 600084

Mrs. Parvathy, 35 years old, Gravida₁, Para₁ Live, with last menstrual period-3rd September 1997, expected date of delivery - 10th June 1998 was referred from Thiruvallur Government Hospital with loss of foetal movements and inability to use both lower limbs. She had inability to pass urine. Her obstetric history was unremarkable. There was no relevant family history or past history. She gave no history of fever or trauma.

On general examination the patient was well oriented, afebrile and had angular stomatitis. Cardiovascular and respiratory systems were normal. Abdominal examination revealed Uterus of 36-38 weeks. Head was unengaged. Fetal heart was good. Pelvic examination showed the cervix uneffaced and os closed with no draining per vaginum. Her neurological examination showed that her higher function was normal and had no cranial nerve palsies. The lower limbs were hypertonic. The power in the lower limbs was 3/5. Deep tendon reflexes were brisk and plantars extensor. Her upper limb examination was normal. There were no cerebellar signs. Fundus-Normal.

In view of her spasticity and no compressive signs, a diagnosis of transverse myelitis was made. Her baseline investigations were normal. Ultrasound abdomen showed single fetus, cephalic presentation, 38 wks, fetal heart and fetal movements were good. Cerebrospinal fluid analysis was normal. In view of the pregnancy further invasive investigations like myelogram and CT were deferred. She was treated with injection methyl prednisolone 500 mg intravenously once daily for 5 days.

From the 5th day of treatment, she recovered markedly and had only minimal weakness of her lower limbs on the 10th day. On the 10th day, (expected date of delivery 10-6-98) stripping was done. She went into spontaneous labour 4 hours later and delivered a male baby normally. Her post natal period was uneventful. On the 3rd post natal day (day of discharge), she went home walking with her baby! She was advised to attend post natal clinic for regular follow up.