

Dilator in Abdomen – A Rare Complication of Criminal Abortion

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Sukumari Hembram P4+1,30 yrs, residing at a remote village in Purulia Dist. West Bengal was examined on 5.9.99 for the following complaint :

Amenorrhoea since last week of May '99

Recurrent shifting pain in abdomen since 6 months following induction of abortion.

On enquiry the patient disclosed that she went to a village quack in February '99 when she had nearly 2 months amenorrhoea. The quack attempted induction of abortion by introducing rod like things per vagina. When the process was going on she had sudden severe pain for which she got up & sat on the table. The quack then told her that the abortion process was complete and she could go home. She had moderate bleeding p/v for a few days.

She had menstruated twice after that incidence & then became amenorrhic. On examination : she was found to have fair general health with 14 wks pregnancy. Her abdomen was soft, nontender but a hard elongated foreign body like substance was palpated in right iliac fossa. St. X-ray abdomen and pelvis was done which revealed presence of a cervical dilator in the abdominal cavity. Laparotomy was done after routine investigation. A 13-14 size Hegar's dilator was found lying in the abdominal cavity. There was no injury to bowel, omentum or any other abdominal structure. An old healed scar was detected on the anterior wall of uterus little below the fundus in the midline. Hysterotomy & bilateral tubectomy was done. The postoperative period was uneventful.

Note : It seemed likely that the patient was nonpregnant at the time of attempted abortion by quack.



Fig. 1: St. X-ray of abdomen & Pelvis showing Hegar's dilator in abdomen.