A Case Report of Self-Inflicted Injury by Adolescent Male

Raviprakash Meshram¹, Meenakshi Khapre², Sunita Bharati³ and Manish Shrigiriwar⁴

¹,⁴Dept. of F.M.T, Shri VN Government Medical College, Yavatmal (M.S), India; ²Dept. of Community Medicine, ³Dept. of Anatomy, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, DMIMS, Sawangi, Wardha (M.S), India

drsunitagiri@gmail.com*; +91 8275027550

Abstract

A post-mortem case report of young male found unconscious in school toilet with blood stains seen over the lower limbs and coils of intestine protruded out in scrotal area has been examined in this study. On external examination, deceased was averagely built, rigor mortis present in jaw and neck, lividity not fixed, features—natural, eyes open, mouth closed and position of limbs straight. Lower portion of shirt and pant stained with dried blood, there was no e/o external injury except intestine protruded through the wound over scrotum. A deceased was diagnosed as case of direct inguinal hernia of right sided and advised surgical intervention. The deceased might be due to fear of surgery or stigma for his disease, tried to treat himself by cutting the protruded intestine in the scrotal sac by razor blade, unaware of the grave consequences resulting in accidental death of the deceased.

Keywords: Apprehension, inguinal hernia, post-mortem, external injury, self-surgery, scrotum, surgical stigma.

Introduction

Self-surgery is the act of performing a surgical procedure on oneself (Tuke, 1982). It can be a rare manifestation of a psychological disorder, an attempt to avoid embarrassment or legal action or an act taken in extreme circumstances out of necessity. Orchiectomy, removal of one or both testicles is the most commonly done self-surgery (Money and DePriest, 1976; Money, 1980). A small number of persons with male genitalia resort to self-surgery in an attempt to control their sexual urges or due to gender identity disorder (Lowy and Kolivakis, 1971). Self-surgery is rare, but numerous cases of self-mutilation are reported in the literature (e.g., castration, enucleation of an eye and amputation of a limb (Kalin, 1979), attempt to remove the fracture fixation implant of limbs (Jeganath Krishnan, 2000) and cesarean section (Molina-Sosa et al., 2004). One notable example is of Boston Corbett, the soldier who killed Abraham Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth had performed self-surgery by castrating himself with a pair of scissors in order to avoid the temptation of prostitutes (Swanson James, 2007). In this study, we are reporting a very rare case of self surgery for direct inguinal hernia in 22 years old young male brought to casualty in unconscious state.

Materials and methods

Case report and examination: A young male, 22 years old brought by relatives with history of cut over scrotal region following chronic illness on 04/08/11 and admitted to Shri VNGMCH, Yavatmal, Maharashtra, India at 13:30 h and died on 04/08/11 at 13:40 h.
Margins clean cut and regular with e/o marginal cut, placed medially to main wound, of size 2.5 cm, vertically placed. Coils of small intestine, ceacum with appendix and mesentry protruded out through main wound (Fig. 3). There was e/o transaction of small intestine 7.5 cm from the base of appendix with missing of 28.5 cm of small intestine, part of superior mesenteric vessel and mesentry (Fig. 4). Margins clean cut and regular, reddish and blood infiltrated. No e/o injury under scalp and no e/o fracture to skull. Meninges and brain were intact and pale. Both lungs were intact and pale. Rest of organs was intact and pale.

Discussion
On extensive literature search, we found a case of self-surgery in old man to relieve the obstructed inguinal hernia in Sudan but the patient recovered (Elsheikh, 2012). In our case he was young male, shy in nature, reserve personality and mentally disturbed due to scrotal swelling as history revealed by the relatives and close friends. With insisting of family member, he approached the doctor for complaint and was suggested surgery on the very next day of his death. He might be having apprehension towards surgery or some stigma about his scrotal swelling which is highly prevalent in society related to genital parts mostly due to lack of understanding of what the hernia is and no counseling from the treating surgeon which is mostly needed for this young age group patients. He tried to treat himself by cutting the protruded intestine in the scrotal sac by razor blade, unaware of the grave consequences resulting in death.

Conclusion
Case report mentally disturbed due to scrotal swelling as history revealed by the relatives and close friends. Consulted surgeon and advised surgery on very next day. He might be having apprehension towards surgery which leads to such drastic step by victim towards self resulting in fatal accident.

References