



Absent Genitalia??? A Case Report of Vulval Synechia in a 8 Months Old Infant

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Clinical Image

An 8-month-old female baby was brought to the surgical OPD by her parents. The mother was concerned about abnormal private parts of the baby, though the baby was passing urine and stool normally. The baby was born through a normal vaginal delivery, and her developmental milestones were normal. She was otherwise healthy.

On examination, a small clitoris was observed with urine passing just underneath it. There was no vulval opening, but the anal opening was normal. The parents were counseled, and a USG abdomen was performed, revealing the presence of a normal uterus and ovaries.

The baby was examined under mild sedation, and a diagnosis of vulval synechia was made. The synechia were released with an artery forceps, and normal vulva and vagina mucosa was seen underneath it. Although this condition is common and akin to phimosis in male children, there are not many references to it in surgical texts.

The parents were given reassurance regarding the condition, and local application of estriol cream was advised to prevent recurrence.

Vulval Synechia is an abnormal condition where the labia will be fused in the midline, and it is hypothetically assumed to be due to early withdrawal of maternal estrogen.

The treatment is very simple. The membrane should be divided in the midline either by manual traction in local or without anesthesia or incised under general anesthesia. Application of ointment prevents any further adhesion. The division of the labia minora usually reveals normal external genitalia and normal vagina (Figures 1-3).

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Figure 1: Vulval Synechia.

Figure 2: Withdrawal of maternal estrogen.

Figure 3: Normal external genitalia and normal vagina.