CASE REPORT

AMPUTATION OF THE GLANS PENIS: A MAJOR SURGICAL COMPLICATION FROM A MINOR UROLOGICAL PROCEDURE

A.N. OSUIGWE, I. AGHADI, J.I. IKECHUEBELU AND P.I.S. OKAFOR

Urology and Paediatric Surgery Units, Department of Surgery, and Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi, Nigeria

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CASE REPORT

Circumcision in the male is an accepted norm in certain cultures. This cultural ritual is often performed by a wide range of operators from the traditional birth attendant to a qualified surgeon. Complications arising from this operation are rare and are often minor. In the following, two cases of amputation of the glans penis are presented to call attention to this catastrophe which in future may constitute a forensic "gold mine".

Case No. 1

A 13-day-old male neonate presented to our paediatric surgical clinic with amputation of the glans penis following circumcission effected seven days before by a general practitioner in a private hospital where the baby was delivered (Fig. 1). Examination revealed that three quarters of the glans penis were slashed ventrally. The wound was heavily infected. The patient was placed on daily dressing and parenteral antibiotics based on the culture sensitivity results of the wound swab. He is now awaiting re-construction.

Case No. 2

A nine-day-old male neonate was admitted to the special care neonatal unit suffering from an inability to pass urine following circumcision effected three days before by a midwife in a maternity home where the baby was delivered. (Fig. 2). Examination showed that the glans penis was slashed dorsally. There was also an incomplete circumcision and gross sepsis of the slashed glans. The patient suffered from dysuria. The sepsis resolved on antibiotic exposure and daily dressing. With the resolution of the sepsis, the dysuria disappeared and the patient is now awaiting re-construction.

DISCUSSION

Circumcision is a surgical procedure done for so many reasons. The associated complications are mostly trivial but occasionally tragic. Tragic complications happen most often with unqualified medical personnel, and this is the case with the two cases reported herein. It is an interesting fact that both cases came from the same locality, though not from...
AMPUTATION OF THE GLANS PENIS DURING CIRCUMCISION

Fig. 2: Dorsal injury of the glans penis with incomplete circumcision and gross sepsis in a 9-day-old male neonate.

as a legislation reserving circumcision to well-trained and qualified personnel only as has been advocated by other authors. A plea is also hereby made to colleagues to pay as much attention to male genital mutilation as to female genital mutilation.

REFERENCES


Editorial Comment:

The authors present a very rare, but tragic complication of neonatal circumcision that happens most often with unqualified non-medical or untrained medical personnel. This complication justifies the urgent need to have training programs in developing countries to set the standards of the technique.

Professor Ismail Khalaf
Cairo, Egypt

All correspondence to be sent to:

Dr. A.N. Osuigwe, Paediatric Surgery Unit, Department of Surgery, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, P.M.B. 5025 Nnewi, Nigeria