



Retained Foreign Body in Bladder: A Rare Case of Pelvic Pain in a 23 Year Old Woman



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Introduction

More than half of all women in the United States have used a vibrator and nearly one third of women have used a dildo. Sexual devices are becoming increasingly integrated into patients' overall sexual experiences. The most common risks of sexual devices are traumatic injury and infection. Foreign bodies in the female bladder may occur by self-insertion and procedures to remove such foreign bodies should preferably be via minimally invasive surgeries.

Case

We present the case of a 23 year old woman complaining of pelvic pain and hematuria that came to the Obstetrics & Gynecology ER at University Hospital in San Juan, PR. She reported sexually pleasuring herself with a vibrator the night before when she was unable to retrieve it. KUB and pelvic sonogram showed a retained device (Images 1 and 2). On pelvic exam a dilated urethral opening of approximately 3cm was observed. Urology service was consulted and patient was taken to the OR where endoscopic retrieval of the device was unfeasible; cystotomy was then performed via Pfannenstiel incision (Image 3). On follow up evaluation patient cited anorgasmia as the main reason for resorting to this practice.

Images



Image 1: KUB from periphery institution



Image 2: Bedside pelvic sonogram showing foreign object in bladder



Image 3: Foreign object removed from bladder (Battery operated vibrator 12.1cm x 2.7cm)

Discussion

Cases of a foreign body in the bladder have been reported albeit the majority in men. Cases in females can occur and should be included in the differential diagnosis of patients with pelvic pain and urinary tract pain. These devices can be used for diverse reasons, including use by patients with sexual dysfunction (decreased libido, anorgasmia, conditions inhibiting vaginal penetration, partner erectile dysfunction, among others). Occasionally patients seek the internet for alternative ideas to regular sexual practices. Knowledge of sexual devices and activities can help gynecologists adequately counsel patients in order to prevent infections and trauma. Proper use of these devices has shown to be safe. It is still illegal to buy sex paraphernalia in parts of the United States.

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