Letter to the Editor

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Meatal ulcer: very rare complication of Foley catheterization

Sir,

A 65 year old gentleman was admitted with the diagnosis of exophytic tumor arising from the stomach wall. His vitals were normal. Patient was poorly built and poorly nourished with BMI of blood chemistry, ECG, and ECHO was normal. His past medical and surgical history was not significant. Urethral catheterization was performed pre-operative with strict aseptic technique. Patient underwent laparotomy with subtotal gastrectomy and gastrojejunostomy. Catheter care was done regularly by trained staff. Catheter was removed on third post operative day. After removal of catheter, Patient had a urine. On examination, single difficulty in passing meatal ulcer was noted (Figure 1). Post -operative course was unremarkable. Patient is in follow up since last six month without any problem.



Figure 1: Ulcer surrounding urethral meatus.

Meatal ulcer is a known but rare complication of circumcision. The incidence varies from 8 to 20%.^{1,2} This is usually seen in infants and is probably due to irritation of meatus by ammoniacal substances present in the nappies.¹ Makenzie found 20 per cent incidence of meatal ulceration as an early complication after circumcision.³ Per urethral catheterization is the most frequent procedure performed on the urinary tract. It is estimated that up to 12% of hospitalized have an insitu urinary

catheter at any given time.⁴ Urinary catheters are associated with numbers of complications like Urinary tract infection, pericatheteric leakage, VUR, Renal damage CRF, Catheter calculi, and vesical calculi etc.⁵ A search of the English literature was performed using two major sites "Pubmed" and "Google scholar' to find association between meatal ulceration and Foley catheterization. I was unable to find a single case of meatal ulcer in uncircumcised male related to Foley catheterization. To my knowledge this is a first case of meatal ulcer in uncircumcised male related to catheterization.

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