Rare presentation of incomplete male urethral duplication: A case report and review of literature

Orgeness J Mbwambo 1, 2 ,* , Alex Mremi 3 , Mohamed Mbarouk 1 , Jasper Mbwambo 1, 2 , Frank Bright 1, 2 , Alfred K Mteta 1, 2 and Bartholomeo Nicholaus Ngowi 1, 2

1 Department of Urology, Faculty of Medicine. Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College. P.O. Box 2240. Moshi, Tanzania
2 Department of Urology, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, P.O. Box 3010, Moshi, Tanzania.
3 Department of Pathology. Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre. P.O. Box 3010, Moshi, Tanzania.
4 Department of Pathology, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, P.O. Box 2240, Moshi, Tanzania.

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Abstract

Urethral duplication is a rare congenital anomaly affecting mainly males. Here, we report a case of urethral duplication in a 19 years old male presented as a scrotal sinus discharging pus for 1 year. Surgical removal of accessory urethra was done and postoperative period was uneventful.

Keywords: Urethral duplication; Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College.

1. Background

Urethral duplication is a very rare congenital anomaly with variable clinical presentations that can occur early or late in life [1]. Herein, we report our experience of late presentation of urethral duplication that presented as a scrotal sinus for one year in a 19-year-old male. The fistulogram and anterograde urethrogram were used to plan the management of the patient. The malformation was Effman Type 2A "Y type" and excision of accessory urethra was done successfully.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this case report is to share our experience of management of a rare case of urethral duplication with late presentation in a teenager.

2. Case report

A 19 years old male presented with a history of recurrent foul smelling pus discharge on the scrotum opening for 1 year. However, there was no history of lower urinary tract symptoms, dysuria or being treated for urinary tract infections, double stream, abdominal pain, perineal trauma, fever, excessive night sweat or loss of weight.

He had undergone sinus excision with the diagnosis of pilonidal sinus 6 months prior to admission to our health facility. However, pus discharge recurred 1 month after the surgery.

*Corresponding author: Orgeness J Mbwambo
Department of Urology, Faculty of Medicine. Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College. P.O. Box 2240. Moshi, Tanzania.
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On physical examination he had normal male external genitalia with bilateral palpable testis in the scrotum and external urethral meatus at the tip of glans penis. A small midline scrotal opening was identified and upon squeezing, a milky coloured fluid comes out of it. The fluid cultured *Escheria coli* that was 100% sensitive to Amikacin and Meropenem and 100% resistance to gentamicin, ceftriaxone and ciprofloxacin. Ultrasound of the urinary tract was normal.

A fistulogramme demonstrated a small irregular tract starting from scrotum to the level of bulbar urethra (figure 1). Micturating cystourethrogramme was normal with no vesicoureteric reflux or obvious contrast going to the accessory urethra. A provisional diagnosis of double urethra was reached (Effman type IIA2 "Y type") and the patient was planned for urethrocystoscopy and sinus exploration on the same sitting.

During urethrocystoscopy through the external urethral meatus that was located at the tip of penis, there was no obvious communication even after feeling the sinus tract with methylene blue. However, there was obvious lineal distension/bulging throughout the perineum (figure 3).
3. Discussion

Urethral duplication is a rare congenital anomaly with a variable clinical presentation that range from asymptomatic, obstructive symptoms, urinary incontinence, double stream, passage of urine in the perineum or rectally, epididymitis or recurrent urinary tract infections [1,2,3]. The anomaly may also be associated with other congenital anomalies such as anorectal malformations, renal agenesis, sacral agenesis, ectopic kidney, megaureter, unilateral or bilateral vesicoureteric reflux, hydronephrosis and cryptorchidism [1,4-8].

Therefore, it is very crucial to perform thoroughly physical examination and focused radiological test that include ultrasonography of the urinary tract to rule out other congenital anomalies. Urethrogram and urethrocystoscopy may also be of paramount in assessing severity of the congenital anomaly [4].

The pathophysiology of urethral duplication remains obscure [2]. The proposed theories include a partial failure or an irregularity of the ingrowth of the lateral mesoderm between the ectodermal and endodermal layers of the cloaca membrane in the midline which explain the forms with a dorsal epispidiac channel by Casselman and Williams, abnormal termination of the mullerian duct by Das and Brosman and asymmetry in the closure of the urorectal septum by Rica et al [9-11]. However, none of the theories can explain all varieties of urethral duplication.

The widely accepted classification of urethral duplication is Effman’s [11] classification (figure 11). Type I is the most common type where there is partial duplication of the urethra and is almost always asymptomatic, requiring no treatment [6]. Type II there is a complete duplication of the urethra and can be subdivided further into type IIA1 if both urethras arise from the separate bladder necks, type IIA2 (Y-type duplication) if one channel arises from the other, and type IIB if duplication with one meatus is observed [12, 13]. Type III represents complete duplication of both urethra and bladder [12, 13].
Our case was type IIa 2 “Y type” urethral duplication [13]. Our case presented relatively very late at the age of 19 years with pus discharge through small opening on the scrotum that was misdiagnosed initially as pilonidal sinus (figure 11). In many cases of Y type urethral duplication, the accessory urethra opens in the perineum or rectum [12]. However, in our case the accessory urethra was ending at proximal bulbar urethra as shown in figure 7 above. Treatment of urethra duplication is individualized and depends upon anatomy of duplication and clinical presentation [1]. In our case, surgical removal of accessory urethra was performed because it was discharging pus. The patient had uneventful recovery three months postoperative.

4. Conclusion
Possibility of urethral duplication must be considered in any child or young adult presenting with scrotal sinus discharge before planning treatment. Treatment should always be individualized according to severity of symptoms and clinical presentation.

Compliance with ethical standards

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Disclosure of conflict of interest
All authors listed in this case report declare that there is no conflict of interests of any kind.

Statement of ethical approval
The ethical clearance for this case report was obtained from Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University Research and Ethical Review Committee.
Statement of informed consent

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this case report and accompanying images.

References