

UTERINE ABNORMALITIES ON DIDELPHYS UTERUS-CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Uterine Abnormalities are associated with infertility, recurrent miscarriages, fetal intrauterine growth restriction, preterm labor, and retained placenta. Mullerian duct anomalies (MDAs) are congenital defects of the female genital system that arise from abnormal embryological development of the Mullerian ducts. A didelphus uterus, also known as a “double uterus,” is one of the least common amongst MDAs. This report discusses a case of didelphus uterus that successfully conceived, carried her pregnancy to term, and delivered vaginally without any significant complications.

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INTRODUCTION

Women with a didelphus uterus are asymptomatic, but some present with dyspareunia or dysmenorrhea in the presence of a varying degree of longitudinal vaginal septum. These abnormalities can include failure of development, fusion, canalization, or reabsorption, which normally occurs between 6 and 22 weeks in utero.[1]

Definition

Uterine abnormalities is defined as a type of female genital malformations resulting from an abnormal development of the Mullerian duct(s) during embryogenesis[2]

Incidence

Most sources estimate an incidence of these abnormalities to be from 0.5 to 5.0% in the general population [1–4]. Septate uterus is the commonest uterine anomaly with a mean incidence of ~35% followed by bicornuate uterus (~25%) and arcuate uterus (~20%) [4]. Uterine anomalies may have a part in the delayed natural conception of women with mainly secondary infertility.

Case Report

This patient is a 28-year-old, who initially came a year before in her first pregnancy, with spontaneous abortion. Pelvic sonogram at that time showed a diagnosis of bicornuate versus didelphus uterus. On exam, patient had a noncommunicating, thick vaginal septum (Figure 1); however patient and her husband were not aware of the patient condition until that day.

There were no renal anomalies on subsequent abdominal CT scan. The patient did not report having dyspareunia, dysmenorrhea, or chronic abdominal pain in the past.

Patient presented with the second pregnancy, which was seen and evaluated by the general gynecologist and diagnosis of didelphus uterus was confirmed.[5]

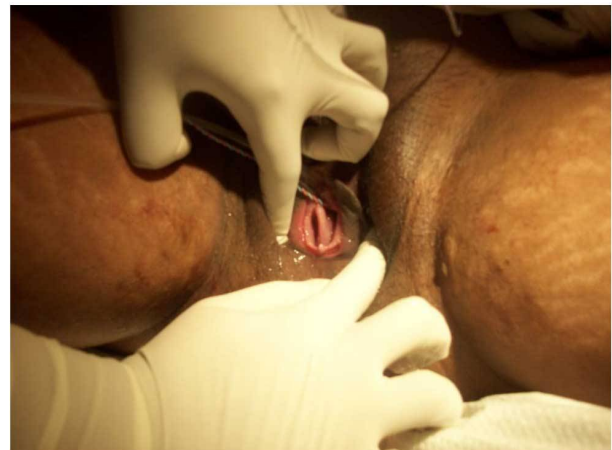


Fig 1 Non Communicable Vaginal Septum

Patient had a vaginal delivery of a baby boy with weight of 2660 grams with left mediolateral episiotomy and complete tear of vaginal septum. Patient had retained placenta, which was removed manually in the operating room with total EBL of 600 cc. Picture from the operating room shows two cervixes next to each other.[5,7]

DISCUSSION

A didelphus uterus remains a very rare Mullerian duct anomaly in comparison to other anomalies described in the

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Buttram and Gibbons classification. Most of the data on the clinical significance and outcomes of this uterine anomaly are based on small retrospective, observational, or case studies. [6]The results of these studies are mixed, not only due to the types of studies, but also due to the very low incidence of the anomaly in the population and the fact that more research has been directed to the more common malformations: arcuate, septate, bicornuate.

The fertility of women with untreated didelphys uterus has been shown by some sources to be better than those with other Mullerian duct abnormalities but still less than women with normal uterine anatomy. To go further, there are reported cases of women with didelphys uteri pregnant with twins or triplets demonstrating the ability to conceive and support the healthy growth of a fetus in either one of the uterine anomaly.[8]

CONCLUSION

The didelphys uterus is a very rare Mullerian duct anomaly with varying reproductive and gestational outcomes in comparison to other more common abnormalities.[9] Didelphys uterus is not an indication for cesarean delivery unless the vaginal septum is thick and inelastic resulting in an increased risk for vaginal dystocia. Lastly, when a didelphys uterus is diagnosed, renal anomalies should also be investigated to rule out Herlyn-Werner-Wunderlich (HWW) syndrome.[10]

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