

Huge Urethral Caruncle Causing Divorce in a Young Female: Case Report

Genç Bayanda Boşanmaya Neden Olan Dev Üretral Karunkül

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ABSTRACT Caruncles are quite rare in young females especially locations other than the lower lip of the urethra. Urethral caruncle causing a divorce has not been published before. A 23-year-old woman presented with a mass feeling at her urethral meatus. Complaints of dysuria, itching, dyspareunia and bloody discharge developed in the previous year. Although she took many medications, the mass did not become smaller. The patient divorced on request of her husband because of dyspareunia and difficulty in sexual activity. On physical examination there was a lump of about 5 x 5 cm in diameter and the lesion was excised totally. Urethral caruncles both in young age groups and in unusual locations are quite rare. We report a huge urethral caruncle causing divorce, which has not been published until now in the literature.

Key Words: Divorce; urethral diseases; female

ÖZET Üretral karunkülün genç bayanlarda ve üretral meanın alt dudağından başka bir yerde izlenmesi oldukça enderdir. Boşanmaya neden olan üretral karunkül henüz bildirilmemiştir. Yirmi üç yaşında bir bayan üretral meatusunda bir kitle hissiyle başvurdu. Son bir yılda dizüri, kaşıntı, dispareuni ve kanlı akıntı şikayetleri gelişmiş. Birçok ilaç tedavisi kullanmasına rağmen kitle küçülmemiş. Hastanın evliliği, dispareuni ve buna bağlı cinsel ilişkiye girememe nedeniyle eşinin talebi üzerine boşanmayla sonuçlanmış. Fizik muayenede 5 x 5 cm boyutunda bir kitle vardı, üretradan çepeçevre köken almakta ve external meayı tamamen çevrelemekteydi ve lezyon total olarak eksize edildi. Üretral karunkülün hem genç yaş grubunda hem de nadir görülen bir lokalizasyonda izlenmesi oldukça enderdir. Boşanmaya neden olan dev bir üretral karunkül rapor ediyoruz ki, henüz böyle bir olgu literatürde saptanmamıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Boşanma; üretral hastalıklar; kadın

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Urethral caruncles often arise from the lower lip of the urethral meatus and are rarely greater than 1 cm in diameter. Although the etiology of urethral caruncles is still indefinite, they are the most common benign tumors of the female urethra.¹ They are frequently asymptomatic and detected during the routine physical examination. Sometimes, patients feel a mass at the urethral meatus. Symptoms are nonspecific and include dysuria, dyspareunia, hematuria and sometimes a sensation of pressure in the perineum.²

Caruncles are quite rare in young females especially in locations other than the lower lip of the urethra. Urethral caruncle causing divorce has not been published until now. In this paper we report a case with these rare properties.

CASE REPORT

A 23-year-old woman admitted to urology clinic with a feeling of a lump at her urethral meatus. Complaints of dysuria, itching, dyspareunia and bloody discharge became manifested in the previous year. Since she realized the mass, she visited many doctors and took a lot of medications. After all, the mass did not regress. Therefore, her husband got divorced due to dyspareunia and inability to perform a sexual intercourse. He complained of bad appearance and difficulty of sexual activity.

On physical examination, there was a 5 x 5 cm lump protruding circumferentially from the urethra and surrounding completely the external meatus (Figure 1). It was reddish, raspberry-like and a bloody leakage occurred by squeezing.

The patient was placed in the dorsolithotomy position under spinal anesthesia. First, we performed cystourethroscopy and ruled out other serious pathological conditions such as carcinoma, diverticulum or abscess. Cystoscopy demonstrated a normal bladder, ureteral orifices and urethral findings. The vulvar skin, vaginal mucosa and cervix were normal in appearance. The lesion was totally excised and a 16 F silicon catheter was placed for the urine drainage. The postoperative period was uneventful and she had no residual complaints after the operation. The patient was discharged on the third postoperative day, and the urethral catheter was removed on the seventh day.

Microscopic examination of the specimen revealed a hyperplastic urothelial lining with prominent stromal inflammation and vascularity. Based on these histologic findings (Figure 2), a diagnosis of urethral caruncle was made.

The informed consent form was signed by the patient.

DISCUSSION

Urethral caruncles occur commonly in middle aged and elderly women and present as solitary, soft, raspberry-like pedunculated tumours, about the size of a pea, attached to the posterior urethral wall near the external urethral meatus.³ However, the



FIGURE 1: A. Appearance of the lesion on physical examination; B. Intraoperative appearance of the caruncle; C. View of excised lesion

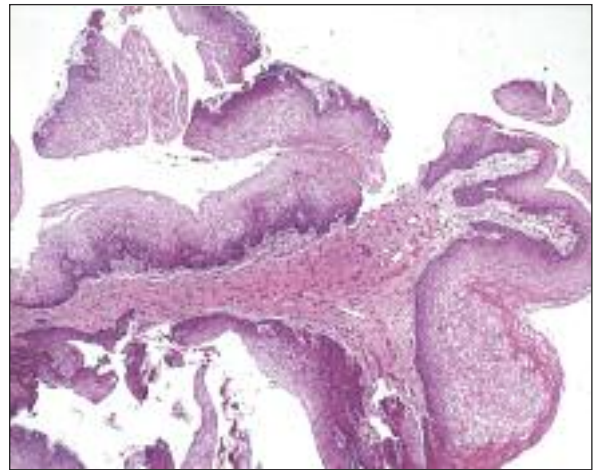


FIGURE 2: Histopathologic appearance of the urethral caruncle (HE, x50).

caruncle developed in a young female in our case and the size of caruncle was greater than the others reported in the literature. In addition, the caruncle was attached not only to the posterior urethral wall, but it also protruded circumferentially from the urethra.

Caruncles are often asymptomatic and usually found in postmenopausal women. When present, the most common symptoms are discomfort or pain, dysuria, dyspareunia and rarely blood staining. The mass is quite fluffy and bleeds readily.⁴

If the lesion is atypical in appearance or behavior, excision may be required to exclude other entities. Tuberculosis, melanoma, intestinal metaplasia and lymphoma have been notified either to coexist with or to mimic urethral caruncles.⁵⁻⁹

The management of urethral caruncle includes local excision, cryotherapeutic ablation or local application of estrogen creams.¹⁰ The patient in this case had various medications including estrogen creams for a long time, but the lesion did not regress. Finally the lesion excised circumferentially and the patient was cured.

In this case a huge urethral caruncle affected a young couple's sexual life. Urethral caruncle caused

an obstruction by its mass effect. The patient's husband experienced difficulty to penetrate the vagina and since the lesion did not regress with many medical treatment modalities, he divorced the young female.

Urethral caruncles both in unusual locations and in younger age groups are quite rare. However urethral caruncle causing divorce is quite interesting and has not been published until now in the literature.

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