



CASE REPORT

Congenital prepubic sinus: A variant of epispadiac dorsal urethral duplication

Abdulrasheed A. Nasir*, Lukman O. Abdur-Rahman, Ifedolapo Olaoye, Adewale O. Oyinloye, Kayode T. Bamigbola, James O. Adeniran

Division of Paediatrics Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Ilorin and University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, PMB 1459, Ilorin, Nigeria

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KEYWORDS

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Abstract Congenital prepubic sinus is a tract originating in the skin overlying the base of the penis. Its embryologic basis is still debated. We present a 9-month-old boy with a recurrent muco-purulent discharge from a tiny opening in the midline prepubic area on the base of the penis. Examination revealed a ventrally hooded prepuce, dorsal chordee, penile torsion to the left, and a 3-mm-diameter prepubic sinus 1 cm from the base of the penis. Histology of the excised tract showed a transitional epithelium. We believe our case is an epispadiac variant of dorsal urethral duplication.

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Introduction

Congenital prepubic sinus (CPS) is a rare anomaly of uncertain etiology. The sinus usually presents as a small tract, commencing on the skin overlying the penis or prepubic area, and extending toward the anterior bladder wall or umbilicus [1,2]. The anatomic and pathologic features of this disorder have been documented, but controversies over its embryologic basis are ongoing. We present a 9-month-old boy with a case of epispadiac variant of

urethral duplication in which the duplicated urethra presented as a prepubic sinus.

Case presentation

A 9-month-old boy presented with a recurrent muco-purulent discharge from a tiny opening in the midline of the prepubic area near the base of the penis. The patient had normal urine flow and intermittent phallic erection. Examination revealed a healthy child with no other detectable congenital anomaly; he had a deformed penis with ventrally hooded prepuce, dorsal chordee, penile torsion to the left, and a 3-mm-diameter prepubic sinus 1 cm from the base of the penis (Fig. 1a and b). The normal

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +234 803 3840 110.
E-mail address: draanasir@yahoo.com (A.A. Nasir).



Figure 1 a and b: Sinus opening over the prepubic area, ventrally hooded prepuce and dorsal chordee.



Figure 3 Intraoperative finding of a 2.5-cm sinus tract.

urethral meatus was located at the tip of the glans penis. An infant feeding tube was inserted 3 cm up the sinus tract. Voiding cystourethrogram showed a normal bladder and urethra with no communication with the sinus (Fig. 2). At surgical exploration through an elliptical incision, a 2.5-cm-long tract was found apparently ending as a fibrous tract underneath the pubic bone toward the anterior surface of the bladder (Fig. 3). Orthoplasty was also done to correct the chordee. Histology findings showed that the sinus was lined with transitional epithelium.

Discussion

Congenital prepubic sinus is a tract originating in the skin overlying the symphysis pubis, superior to the base of the penis or clitoris, and extending to, but not communicating with, the anterior bladder wall [3]. There are four generally

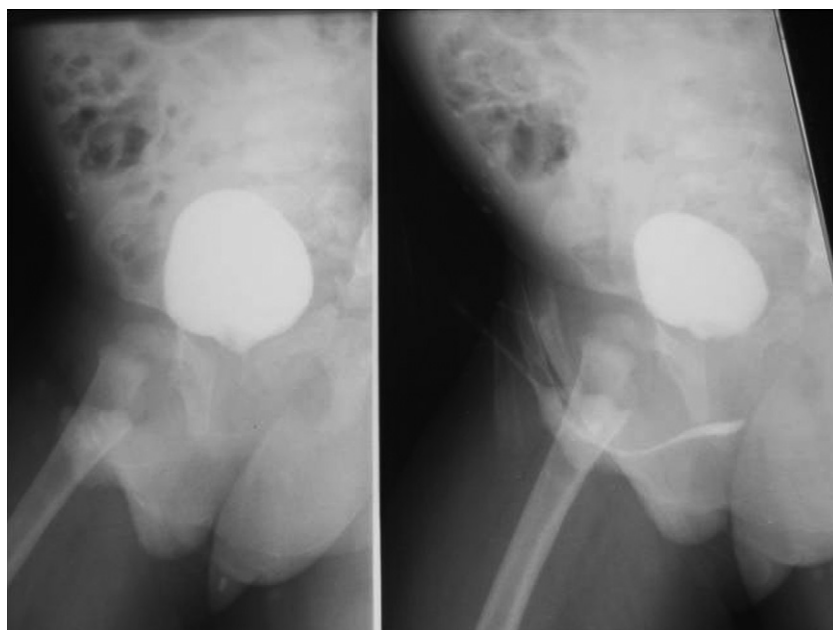


Figure 2 Voiding cystourethrogram outlining the bladder and urethral with no opacification of the tract.

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