A Case of Hydrocolpos

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Hydrocolpos has received little attention during the past
decade (Dewhurst, 1963; Cook and Marshall, 1964). Conse-
sequently many doctors are not aware of this retention
cyst of the vagina and when seen it is often misdiagnosed. On the
other hand the related disorder of haematocolpos usually
found at puberty is well known and more often suspected than
confirmed.

Cook and Marshall (1964) recalled that of the 49 cases of
hydrocolpos in infants under 10 months recorded up to date
of their study only 26 were diagnosed before treatment. The
case mortality was 35%. Of the 16 patients who underwent
laparotomy when undiagnosed, eight had a hysterectomy be-
cause malignant disease was suspected.

In view of these startling figures a further case of hydro-
colpos is reported.

Case History

The patient was a girl born at term, weight 6lb 15oz (3-24 kg).
The mother had given birth to a boy seven years previously who
had been adopted.

She had discontinued an oral contraceptive two months before
conception and the pregnancy and delivery were normal. The baby
was breast fed and contented.

When seven days old a cystic dark swelling was noted at
the vulva (see fig.). The child remained well. There was no apparent
disturbance of micturition or defaecation and no abdominal tumour
was felt. Vaginal examination confirmed the diagnosis of hydro-
colpos.

The next day the hymen was incised to release a small quantity
of clear fluid. At the same time the vagina was gently examined
with a probe, and no septum was felt.

A five-day course of Ampiclox syrup (ampicillin/cloxacillin) 90
mg (0·6 ml) four-hourly was begun, and as the child's condition
remained satisfactory with no further drainage from the vagina
she was discharged from hospital with her mother on the ninth
day after delivery.

The baby continued to thrive and when examined aged 1 month
showed no abnormality of the external genitalia.

References

Dewhurst, C. J. (1963). Gynaecological Disorders of Infants and Child-
ren, chap. 4. London, Cassell.