

The adhesive veil: Labial fusion concealing endometrial malignancy

Siti Hasnah Mohd Roslan¹, Azha Syahril Azizan², Thai Ying Wong¹, Aizura Syafinaz Ahmad Adlan¹

¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ²Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Kulliyah of Medicine, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Endometrial carcinoma, the most prevalent gynaecology malignancy in postmenopausal women, typically presents with abnormal uterine bleeding. However, atypical presentations can complicate timely diagnosis. **Case Description:** A 76-year-old postmenopausal woman presenting with abdominal discomfort. Physical examination revealed complete labial fusion with a pinhole opening, and imaging studies identified significant hydrometra. Surgical intervention to separate the labial adhesions facilitated drainage of the accumulated fluid. Subsequent hysteroscopic sampling confirmed the diagnosis of endometrioid adenocarcinoma. Laparotomy revealed bizarre polypoidal growth with adhesion to bowel, which was initially thought to be benign, but turned out to be malignant. **Discussion:** Labial fusion in postmenopausal women is an uncommon condition, often associated with hypoestrogenism and chronic inflammation. Factors such as genitourinary syndrome of menopause, lichen sclerosis, and skin malignancy can contribute to its development. In this case, the labial fusion likely impeded normal vaginal drainage, leading to hydrometra and masking the underlying endometrial carcinoma. Hydrometra can result from cervical stenosis or obstruction. In postmenopausal women, it may remain asymptomatic or present with nonspecific symptoms, delaying diagnosis. The combination of labial fusion and hydrometra in this patient obscured the classic symptom of postmenopausal bleeding, leading to a delayed diagnosis of endometrial carcinoma. This case underscores the importance of considering endometrial carcinoma in the differential diagnosis when encountering postmenopausal women with labial fusion and hydrometra, even in the absence of classic symptoms. Early recognition and intervention are crucial to prevent diagnostic delays and improve patient outcomes. A benign condition can mask a malignant malady.