

Case Report

Congenital Anomaly : Closed Prepuce

In 1979, a private practitioner in Nassau, Bahamas, brought a new born male dead body for autopsy.

The child had a normal delivery but without any apparent cause the child died after 5 days.

On examination, the child was healthy looking baby with no obvious abnormality.

During autopsy, chest organs were normal. On opening the abdominal cavity, the first thing which drew attention was distended urinary bladder. After removing the intestine, I found that both the ureters were markedly dilated. So it was obvious that the child died of uraemia due to urinary obstruction. On further examination, no obstruction was found in the urinary tract up to the urinary bladder.

Then while examining the penis it was found that the end of the prepuce was closed. On cutting open it was found that the urethral meatus was open. So due to closed prepuce (not phimosis) there was urinary obstruction leading to uraemia and death.

Why it was not noticed that the child was not passing urine? The obvious reason is that now-a-days the babies are put on napkins. The newborn babies pass liquid stool, so it was not noticed that the child did not pass urine.

So, after delivery of a baby all the organs and openings should be checked to avoid such unfortunate negligence.

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