External genitalia entrapment: a case report

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Abstract

External genitalia entrapment (EGE) is a very rare situation, more serious condition than the classic penile entrapment, due to the additional compression of the spermatic cord with subsequent ischemia of the whole external genitalia apparatus.

Key words:

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Case report

The Fire Brigade brought a 45-year-old schizophrenic man to the Emergency Department with a 5 hours history of EGE in a thick nonexpandable silver ring. He was anxious and in a considerable pain. The glans was cyanosed and enlarged with an obvious swelling of the scrotum and foreskin (**Fig. 1**). In fact, this patient suffers from a behavioral disorder and in his past medical history, we noted a traumatic colic perforation by a foreign body. This time the entry has begun with one testis followed by the other one and finished with the penis. The patient used oil to facilitate the maneuver. At physical examination, he complained of numbness of the glans and the penile dorsal artery pulse was bearly perceptible. He had voiding difficulties but wasn't in acute urinary retention. Under neuroleptic analgesia, a malleable retractor was negotiated under the ring to safeguard the underlying skin (**Fig. 2**) and the ring was cut in two places with a diamond-tipped oscillating splint saw. The whole procedure took about one hour. After removing the ring, the circulation was quickly restored to the external genitalia, which were undamaged, and the patient was capable to urinate.

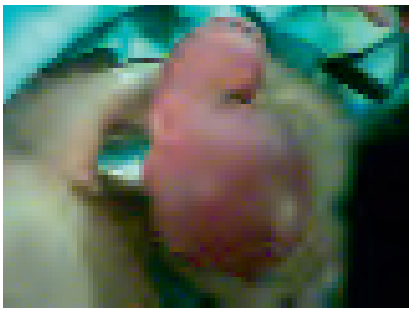


Fig. 1 Cyanosed and enlarged glans with an obvious swelling of the scrotum and foreskin

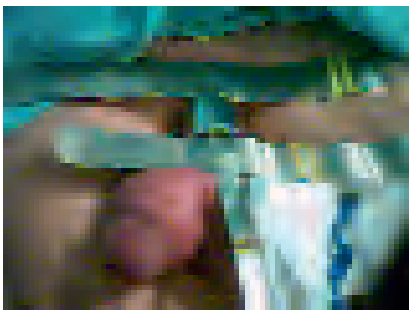


Fig. 2 Malleable retractor negotiated under the ring to safeguard the underlying skin

Comment

A strangulation metal ring is occasionally encountered in urologic emergencies [3,4]. EGE is rarer than penile entrapment but more serious emergency problem, which can lead to infarction [1, 2, 8, 9]. Various nonmetallic and metallic constricting objects (Bottles, rings, hairs, threads, steel nuts and rubber bands) [3-5,7] are placed on the external genitalia to increase sexual performance or because of autoerotic intentions [2, 4]. In the worldwide literature, many reports of penile entrapment [1-10,12,13] have been reported. To our knowledge, this is the first report of External genitalia entrapment. The main objective in this situation is decompression to facilitate free blood flow and micturition [2, 4]. Metallic rings rarely cause severe mechanical injuries, but they can lead to severe vascular complications [4]. Various procedures have been emphasized, including the common metal ring cutter, cutting tang, metal saw, Dremel Moto-Tool Kit, Anspach cement eater, highspeed dental drill, string method, and "wrapping" by package cord [1, 3-5, 7, 9, 11-13]. Removal of strangulating constricting devices requires resourcefulness to perform the removal simply and effectively, and with as little discomfort for the patient as possible. In some cases, a little premedication is helpful; however, only very few patients require general anesthesia [4].

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