Auto-Penectomy: A Devastating Complication of Advanced, Neglected Penile Carcinoma

Autopenectomy due to penile carcinoma

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Abstract Auto-penectomy is a rare consequence of penile carcinoma (PC). Two men, 65 and 74 years of age, presented with total penile loss secondary to PC. Due to poor hygiene and negligence, the ulcer was infected with maggots. The management was by local debridement and suprapubic cystostomy. No further treatment was done as the patients did not come for follow-up.

Keywords Penis · Carcinoma · Penectomy · Maggots

Advanced, untreated and neglected cases of penile carcinoma (PC) can rarely present with partial or complete penile loss [1]. Two men, 65 and 74 years old, from rural background and chronic smokers, presented with ulcerative lesion over glans penis for 1 year. The ulcer eroded the penis and ultimately the penis “sloughed-out” (Fig. 1). Due to poor hygiene and self-negligence maggots developed in the wound (Fig. 2). Maggots were removed by applying turpentine oil on the ulcer followed by local wound debridement. The urethral meatus couldn’t be localized and suprapubic cystostomy was done. Biopsy confirmed well-differentiated squamous cell carcinoma. The patients were advised perineal urethrostomy and adjuvant radiotherapy but they didn’t turn up for further treatment.

The causes of auto-penectomy include PC [1], psychiatric illnesses [2] and hair strangulation [3]. Penile myiasis is a rare entity, which occurs due to infestation by dipterous fly larvae known as maggots. Only few case reports of PC with myiasis have been mentioned in literature [4]. Maggot-infestation have been used therapeutically for skin and soft tissue wounds (including malignant) and is known as maggot debridement therapy (MDT) [5]. Whether maggot infestation in these men helped them or not is difficult to say as both

Fig. 1 “Sloughed-out” penis with necrotic base. The patient was passing urine through this ulcer

were lost on follow-up and detailed stage work-up could not be done.

We see this complication rarely. However, it is a rare coincidence that we saw two cases in last 1 year.

Fig. 2 Ulcer with maggots (arrow) after penile auto-amputation

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