

Mayer - Rokitansky - Kuster - Hauser Syndrome: Two Cases Of A Rare Non Hereditary Disorder In Siblings

A Aremu, V Adetiloye, B Ibitoye, C Asaleye, V Oboro

Citation

A Aremu, V Adetiloye, B Ibitoye, C Asaleye, V Oboro. *Mayer - Rokitansky - Kuster - Hauser Syndrome: Two Cases Of A Rare Non Hereditary Disorder In Siblings*. The Internet Journal of Radiology. 2005 Volume 5 Number 1.

Abstract

Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser(M.R.K.H.) syndrome is a rare disorder often characterized by congenital absence of the uterus and vaginal. It may be associated with anomalies of the kidneys ranging from Ectopic to congenital absence, and also bony anomalies.

Two cases of this rare disorder occurring in siblings, which, to the best of our knowledge has not been reported before are hereby discussed.

The evaluation by laparoscopy, Ultrasound, Intravenous Urography, Computerized Tomography and classification of these two cases are also discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Congenital absence of the uterus and vagina, Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster Hauser (MRKH) syndrome is a rare disorder. The prevalence has been reported as 1 in 4000-5000 female births₂.

Two cases of this rare, non-hereditary disorder presenting in siblings are hereby discussed.

CASE REPORT (A)

EB is a 30year old spinster who presented at the GOPD with primary amenorrhoea. The family history revealed delayed menarche of the mother which was at age 21. She (the mother) however subsequently proceeded to have an uneventful reproductive period; the married elder sibling, age 32 years also has primary infertility and primary amenorrhoea.

General physical examination was essentially normal.

The Central nervous, Cardio-pulmonary and abdominal examination were also normal.

Vaginal examination revealed normal labia majora with Type I female genital mutilation. Normal labia minora, external urethra meatus, vestibule with shallow (2.5cm deep) vagina ; ending blindly.

Bimanual pelvic examination revealed a palpable mass of

about 8 x 6cm in the suprapubic region.

Abdomino-pelvic ultrasound [Fig 1] revealed A solitary ectopic kidney which measures 10.2cm x 4.6cm in Longitudinal x Anterio-posterior dimension was seen superior to the urinary bladder. The uterus and ovaries were absent.

Figure 1

Figure 1: Pelvic ultrasound showing an ectopic pelvic kidney indenting on the urinary bladder superiorly.



A diagnosis of congenital absence of the uterus with Ectopic pelvic kidney was made.

Intravenous urography [Fig 2] revealed partial sacralization

of the fifth lumbar vertebra; renal pelvicalyceal system was demonstrated in the right aspect of the pelvis, superior to the urinary bladder. The calyces appeared splayed with a short ureter which showed normal caliber and smooth outlines.

Figure 2

Figure 2: Intravenous urography showing pevicaeal system of the ectopic kidney.



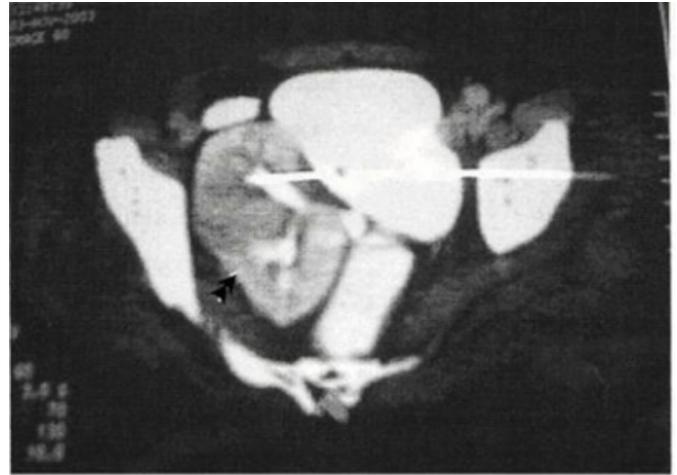
No renal outline or excretion was seen in the lumbar regions.

The diagnosis of an ectopic pelvic kidney was confirmed.

Enhanced Computerized Tomography scan [Fig 3] showed similar findings and also confirmed absence of the uterus.

Figure 3

Figure 3: Enhanced axial CT (with rectal contrast) of the pelvis showing ectopic kidney; contrast filled urinary bladder but no uterus.



The Karyotype result came back to be 46 XX; laparoscopy was not done to avoid injury to the pelvic kidney. The final diagnosis was Mayer – Rokitansky – Kuster – Hauser Syndrome.

She was counseled, and had vaginal dilatation (frank technique)

CASE REPORT (B)

OO is also a 32 year old teacher, an elder sister to EB, who presented Primary infertility after 4yrs of marriage and primary amenorrhoea.

There was history of delayed menarche in the mother and her only sister, age 30 has primary amenorrhoea.

The significant findings were on vaginal examination which showed a blindly ended vagina with a normal depth (8 x6cm). The clitoris, labia majora and minora and the vestibule were normal.

A clinical diagnosis of primary amenorrhoea was made. Abdominopelvic ultrasound [Fig 4] revealed normal liver, spleen and both kidneys. However, no uterine tissue was seen in the pelvis. The ovaries too were not visualized. A diagnosis of congenital absence of the uterus was made.

two gonads, the development of the mullerian ducts would stop at various stages₁.

The karyotype of affected patient is usually 46XX₄. It is however not clear whether this condition is autosomal recessive disorder or single gene defect. Both cases presented have 46XX karyotype.

Growth and development of these patients are usually normal as seen in both cases presented. This is due to normal ovarian function. The secondary sexual characteristics are often well developed though patients with TYPE B MRKH syndrome may have a slight form of female pseudohermaphroditism. None of the two cases have evidence of female pseudohermaphroditism.

The external genitalia are normal in appearance although the vagina may sometimes be a shallow pouch of three cm in depth or is absent. Normal external genitalia was found in both patients ; the vagina was shallow in the first case, but of normal depth, though ended blindly in case 2, possibly because of regular coital dilatation.

Review of the patients' medical history and a simple gynecologic examination usually suggest MRKH syndrome; most of the patients present with primary amenorrhea with or without primary infertility. Case I and Case II presented with amenorrhoea and primary infertility respectively.

Sonography has been recommended for diagnosis of these abnormalities_{3,5}. It is useful to confirm uterine agenesis or in some cases, endometrial tissue with uterine bud or even a unicornuate uterus with haematometra may be seen.

Sonography will however not differentiate between TYPE A & TYPE B and may not be able to detect small remnants of endometrial tissue in the muscular bud₅.

However, sonography will provide similar information to excretory urography on the anomalies of upper urinary tracts.

Preliminary films (of excretory urography) may show anomalies of bony structures which are seen in about 5% of cases of MRKH syndrome₃. These include sacralization of the 5th lumbar vertebra and lumbarization of the 1st sacral vertebra.

Both cases have congenital bony anomaly: sacralization of the fifth lumbar and sacral spina bifida in Case I and II respectively.

Laparoscopy is useful in detecting the remnant endometrial tissue and assessing the fallopian-tube thereby classifying the syndrome into TYPE A or B.

However, Magnetic Resonance Imaging also has a role in demonstrating small amounts of endometrial tissue in patients with cyclical abdominal pain_{6,7}. It is still very not certain whether MRI will be able to differentiate the two forms accurately_{6,7}.

Management option include intensive psychological counselling followed by vaginoplasty - the Franks technique of vaginal dilatation, the Ingram passive dilatation technique or the MCIndoe Reed Split - thickness graft technique can be used.

The first patient had Frank's technique of vaginal dilatation because of the shallow vagina (2.5 cm in depth) while the second patient that needed no dilatation is being prepared for assisted conception. Both patients were lost to follow up.

SUMMARY

Although, MRKH syndrome is rare, two siblings presenting with primary Amenorrhea with and without Primary Infertility have been discussed. The first patient had associated renal anomaly while the second had normal renal anatomy.

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Dr. Aremu Ademola Adegoke Radiology Department,
Ladoke Akintola University Of Technology Teaching
Hospital, Osogbo. Osun State. Nigeria. E-Mail:
Lamode70@Yahoo.Com Phone Number: +
234(0)8034061218

References

1. Strubbe E. H., Willemsen W.N.P. Willemsen, Lemmens J. A. M., Thijn C.J.P., Roland Rune. Mayer - Rokitansky - Kuster - Hauser syndrome: Distinction between two forms based on Excretory Urographic, Sonographic, and Laparoscopic findings. *AJR* 1993; 160: 331- 334.
2. Evans T, Poland M, Boving R. Vaginal malformations. *Am J. Obstet Gynecol.* 1981; 141: 910 - 920
3. John A.R, David L.K, Surgical Correction of Utero vaginal Anomalies In. *JJ Sciara. Gynaecology and Obstetrics Vol. I. Chapter 70:19.*
4. Jone H. W Jr, Mermut S. Familial occurrence of congenital absence of the vagina. *Am. J. Obstet Gynecol.* 1972; 114: 1100.
5. Nussbaum Blask A, Sanders R, Rock J. Obstructed uterovaginal anomalies: demonstration with sonography. *Radiology* 1991; 179: 84- 88.
6. Fidele L, Dorta M, Brioschi D . Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Mayer - Rokitansky -Kuster - Hauser syndrome. *Obstet Gynecol.* 1990; 76:593 - 596.

7. Togashi K, Nishimura K, Itoh K. Vaginal agenesis

classification by MR Imaging Radiology 1987; 162: 675 - 677.

Author Information

Ademola A. Aremu, FWACS, FMCR, MBCHB

Radiology Department, Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital

Victor A. Adetiloye, FWACS, FMCR, MBBS

Radiology Department, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital

Bolanle O. Ibitoye, FWACS, MBCHB

Radiology Department, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital

Christnal M. Asaleye, FWACS, MBCHB

Radiology Department, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital

Victor O. Oboro, FWACS, MBCHB

Radiology Department, Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital