Penis engorgement byencircling object

The occasional, pressing need for unorthodoxmeasures

Fig. 1: Isolating material introduced between the object and the penis

After several attempts to remove the foreign body with medical instruments, the technical procedure was called in. Finally, analyzing the treatment options, we chose to use an electrical abrasive device. Prophylactic antibiotics were administered. While aiming to prevent the potential thermal side-effects generated by the penile contact with the hot metal ring, a piece of isolating material was inserted between the object and the penis (Fig. 1). Using an electrical abrasive disk (Fig. 2), two cuts were performed at 6 and 12 o’clock. Cold saline washing was applied on the cutting area. Paraphimosis reduction was achieved after removing the constrictive ring.

No anesthesia was used during this procedure, which did not cause pain for the patient. In this way, the patient remained sensitive to observe handling of the ring, which was indicated as the necessary periods of time for the object cold washing. Consequently, potential thermal lesions were avoided.

This case report is a case of paraphimosis, which is minimally observed in clinical practice. The parasitic conditions are either metallic or non-metallic. Metallic objects are usually placed on the penis by the patient himself or by his female partner in order to achieve a prolonged sexual erection.1-3 Also, the use of foreign objects in relation with the urethral tract was described as part of unusual autostic practices. The placement of strangulating objects around the penis was described in some cultures as a mystic attempt to keep away evil spirits or to treat urinary incontinence or nocturnal pollutions.4

On the other hand, penile trauma is a common disease in both adults and children. Various open wounds, bites, fractures, partial or complete amputations, amputations or zipper injuries were described in the literature. In this regard, miscellaneous injuries due to the use of erection-inducing devices, sexual abuse or torture are not uncommon. Foreign bodies encircling the penis constitute a surgical emergency, usually related to venous outflow obstruction leading to distal edema. One of the potential complications is represented by the urethral strictures due to prolonged ischemia of the vessels supplying the urethra.

Choosing the best method of removing foreign bodies from the penile level depends mainly on their size, thickness and mobility.1 Technically speaking, the manual removal of the ring or the use of different cutting tools, oftentimes not primarily designed for medical purposes, were described as appropriate. This pathology often requires immediate and sometimes unusual procedures, distinct from the daily clinical procedures. The management of such cases is frequently debatable, as it sometimes departs from the standard medical care.

References

Fig. 2: Cutting the metal ring with the electrical abrasive device

With the Renaissance and maritime discoveries during the 16th century, the geography of medicine was in frank expansion and new horizons were opening up in the healing arts. New discoveries and concepts were now exciting an interest on the use of medicinal plants and their study, which had begun in ancient Egypt and Greece (as early as 1300 BC with the Ebers papyrus and its pharmacological preparations) and had been preserved unchanged for centuries by monks and herbalists.

Garcia de Orta was perhaps the ultimate expression of these advances. His work Coloquios dos Simples e Drogas e Coisas Medicinas de Índia [Conversations on the Simples, Drugs and Medicinal Substances of India], the first treatise on tropical medicine, established the foundations of modern phytotherapy and pharmacology. It established a system and therapeutic practice based on plant preparations and derivatives studied and manipulated through botany and chemistry – the precursors of pharmacology.

At the time, medicinal plants as well as animal and mineral products and thermal waters were being used to treat a variety of diseases, many of which today fall within the sphere of urology – urinary and venereal infections, tuberculosis, tropical infections, stone and bladder maladies, impotence and sterility, battle injuries, accidental and surgical wounds, etc. Some of these plants were used as diuretics and still others as emetics or purgatives to treat different types of infections. Others, some of whom were physicians or philosophers, others alchemists, healers or shamans, treated diseases with hygiene and dietic medicine. They used these natural products to seek out herbalists to prepare concoctions and sometimes barber-surgeons to perform procedures like bleeding or cutting, like lithotomy.

The application of foreign bodies on the penis is used by adults for erotic purposes and also occurs in children as an innocent game. The strangulating objects are either metallic or non-metallic. Metallic objects are usually placed on the penis by the patient himself or by his female partner in order to achieve a prolonged sexual erection.1-3 Also, the use of foreign objects in relation with the urethral tract was described as part of unusual autostic practices. The placement of strangulating objects around the penis was described in some cultures as a mystic attempt to keep away evil spirits or to treat urinary incontinence or nocturnal pollutions.4

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Garcia de Orta: The World of Medicinal Plants

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