Klingsor's Syndrome - Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Klingsor's syndrome is a psychiatric condition in which the person suffering from psychiatric condition called schizophrenia indulges in the genital self mutilation in response to delusions or command auditory hallucination. We report a case of Klingsor's syndrome, where a known schizophrenic patient carried out genital mutilation in response to a auditory hallucination.

Keywords: Schizophrenia; Klingsor's syndrome; Self genital mutilation.

Introduction:

Klingsor's syndrome is a clinical condition in which a known psychiatric patient indulges in self mutilation in the form of deliberate destruction of his own organs but with no intent to commit suicide. It is a very rare entity in the clinical practice. but known to occur in patients suffering from psychiatric disorders like schizophrenia, depression and personality disorders. As per the available literature, three most commonly affected organs involved in the self mutilation are the skin, eyes and external genitalia (1). Here, we report a case of a known schizophrenic patient who indulged in self mutilation of his genitalia.

Case report:

A 35 year old married male, an agricultural worker was brought to the emergency department of Narayana Medical College Hospital, Nellore on 18/08/2017 with the history of deliberate slicing of his external genitalia with a sickle while working in his fields.

Clinical examination revealed a male patient, conscious but dull and not responding to verbal commands immediately. His pulse rate and blood pressure recordings were normal.

Local examination of external genitalia revealed that the scrotum was cut in a 'U' shaped manner and both testes were missing. The wound
was filled with a blood clot (Fig.1).

Fig.1  U- shaped lacerated wound of the scrotum

The relatives who brought the patient also brought the missing testes in a separate plastic bag (Fig.2).

Fig.2 The testes recovered from the site

On repeated questioning the patient said that he heard Goddess Durga asking him that to cut his genitals while working in the fields. So, he sliced his external genitalia with a sickle. When he was bleeding in the fields, he was picked up and brought to the hospital for the treatment. After resuscitation and the relevant investigations he was taken to the operation theatre where the wound debridement was done. After three days delayed primary suturing was done (Fig.3).

Fig.3 Sutured scrotum with drain

He recovered well. The wound healed well. In view of his abnormal mental status he was referred to the psychiatrist. He was confirmed as a case of schizophrenia and being treated as such.

Discussion:

Ames D (1987) described auto castration on biblical delusions in schizophrenic conditions. The name Klingsor's Syndrome is derived from a character Klingsor in Parsifol (An opera) who engaged in an act of self castration to gain entry into the brotherhood of the knights of Holy Grail. The term Klingsor's Syndrome is applied to genital mutilation with religious delusions (2). Usually a single adult male of 20-29 years with physical or sexual abuse or with homosexual tendencies or a person with a sense of guilt for sexual offences are prone to these acts (3). Sometimes even normal non psychiatric patients
may also do self mutilation of genitals (4). These cases need close monitoring because these patients may require psychiatric treatment in due course of time. There are a few case studies in the literature (5, 6 and 7).

**References:**


