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Dr. Fatimunnisa Shaik

Assistant Professor,
Department of Obstetrics and
Gynaecology, Hamsa
Homeopathy Medical College,
Hospital and Research Centre,
Telangana, India

Dr. Malecha Tabassum

Intern- 2017 Batch, Hamsa
Homeopathy Medical College,
Hospital and Research Center,
Telangana, India

Dr. M Rajitha

Intern- 2017 Batch, Hamsa
Homeopathy Medical College,
Hospital and Research Center,
Telangana, India

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Fatimunnisa Shaik

Assistant Professor,
Department of Obstetrics and
Gynaecology, Hamsa
Homeopathy Medical College,
Hospital and Research Centre,
Telangana, India

Homoeopathy remedial effects on Bartholin's gland cyst

Dr. Fatimunnisa Shaik, Dr. Malecha Tabassum and Dr. M Rajitha

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Abstract

The Bartholin's glands are situated symmetrically on each side at the posterior region of the vaginal opening. These two pea-sized glands are an important part of the female reproductive system and are involved in mucus secretion and vaginal lubrication. Cyst formation in the glands is common and results from blockage of gland opening and mucus build-up in gland ducts forming a painless cyst. If the fluid within the cyst gets infected, there will be pus formation which is surrounded by inflamed tissue. This article will review the literature of the Bartholin's glands anatomy, its physiology, and its pathology as well as homeopathic treatment for the Bartholin's glands cyst.

Keywords: Bartholin's glands, Bartholin's cyst, vulval lubrication, female reproductive system, homeopathic approach

Introduction

The Bartholin's glands are important organs of the female reproductive system. These Bartholin glands are two small glands that secrete fluid into the vagina. The organ's main function is to secrete mucus for vaginal and vulval lubrication. The Bartholin's glands are prone to infections and abscess formation, which can result in vestibular pain and dyspareunia [3].

Anatomy, Physiology, and Embryology

Bartholin's glands are pea-shaped glands which are present on either side of the vaginal opening [1]. These are situated posterior and laterally to the vaginal opening, above the outer layer of triangular ligament and below the bulbospongiosus muscle [2]. It lies in the erectile tissue of the vestibular bulb at its posterior extremity [1]. Normally, these are impalpable in healthy women, but they can be easily palpated when enlarged by inflammation [1]. Its duct runs forwards and inwards to open between the hymen and labia minora [1]. The gland is about 10 mm in diameter and is situated at the junction of the middle and posterior thirds of the labium majus [1]. The duct of the gland is about 25 mm long and has a thin consistency mucus secretion and it can be expressed from it by the pressure upon the gland. Bartholin's gland is a compound racemose gland and its acini are lined by low columnar epithelium, the epithelium of the duct is cubical near the acini, but later it becomes transitional and finally squamous near the mouth of the duct [1]. The Bartholin gland function is to secrete lubricating mucus during coitus. The labia majora joins at the posterior commissure and merge imperceptibly into the perineum.

Embryology

During embryogenesis, the Bartholin's glands arise from the sinus urogenitalis. Each Bartholin's gland has mucinous acini which is lined by simple columnar epithelium [3]. Bartholin's gland efferent ducts are made up of transitional epithelium, finally which merges into squamous epithelium as the orifices open into the vagina [3].

Bartholin's cyst definition

It defines that there is closure of the duct or the opening of an acinus. The cause of the closure of duct, opening of acinus may be infection, trauma which is followed by fibrosis and occlusion of the lumen [2].

Pathology

The Bartholin gland cyst may develop in the duct or in the gland. Most Commonly, it is involved in the duct; not the gland because the gland is adherent to it posterolaterally. Cyst of the duct or gland can be differentiated by the lining of the epithelium. The content of the Bartholin's gland cyst is glairy and colour less fluid-secretion [2].

Clinical features

- Normally these cysts are painless, If the surrounding tissues are infected (at the junction of mid and lower thirds of the labia minora) are inflamed and oedematous which causes acute pain, tenderness and dyspareunia.
- The introitus may be distorted and there is palpable fluctuant mass [2].
- Discomfort while walking or sitting [2].

Differential diagnosis

- Large sebaceous cysts.
- Inclusion cysts.
- Hidradenoma.
- Primary malignancy.

Examination of Bartholin's gland

A small size is often unnoticed to the patient or escapes attention of the physician even following internal examination. If the size of the cyst becomes large then there is local discomfort and dyspareunia. On careful examination there is unilateral swelling can be felt on the posterior half of the labia majora which opens up at the posterior end of the labia minora. Its medial projection makes the vulvar cleft 'S'-shaped. The overlying skin is very thin and shiny. The cyst is fluctant and there is no tenderness.

Homoeopathic therapeutics

- **Silicea terra:** It's the most indicated remedy to dissolve the cysts. In infected cysts it helps in clearing in the pus discharges. Milky acrid leucorrhoe, Itching of vagina and vulva, abscess at labia, vaginal cysts. *Serous cysts in the vagina, fistulas openings and abscess about the vulva which heal with hard nodules or may not heal forming as large as pea or orange sized.
- **Hepar Sulphur:** It's given in cases of infected cysts with pus discharge. Itching of pudenda [7]. Abscess of labia with great sensitiveness. Offensive leucorrhoe which smells like an old cheese. It's best suited to scrofulous and lymphatic constitutions who have tendency of glandular swellings, unhealthy skin. Another strong indication is tendency of suppression. Aggravation on touch, lying on painful side better in damp wet weather and warmth.
- **Apis Mellifica:** It is best suitable for redness, swelling, and burning pain in the affected region. It is a good medicine for infected Bartholin cyst. Patient has oedema of the labia with burning pain and stinging pain which is better by the application of cold water [7].
- **Belladonna:** It's especially indicated for infected Bartholin cyst condition, patient complaints of fever with chills, heaviness, pressure, and shooting like pain in the female private part region [7]. Dryness and heat sensation in the female genitalia. There's congestion and inflammation of the labia. Aggravation on touch lying down better in semi erect position.
- **Calcarea Carbonica:** This is a constitutional remedy

[7]. It is best indicated for the tendency of recurrence of Bartholin cyst and swellings of glands. There's profuse sweat in external genitals. A patient complaints of constant aching in the female private part region. There's history of early and profuse menses with excessive back pain during menses. Patient has oversensitivity to cold air and physical exertion gets easily fatigued [9]. Complaints are aggravated by washing, wet weather, standing amelioration by lying on painful side.

- **Thuja:** Thuja is useful for Bartholin cyst recurrence conditions. It is an anti-sycotic remedy. Thuja helps to reduce the cyst tendency [7]. She has a very sensitive vagina with warty excrescence on vulva and perineum. Worse at night, heat of bed,

Repertorial index

1. Genitalia-Female-cysts. (Kent) [4]
2. Genitalia-Female-coition, painful. (Kent) [4]
3. Genitalia-Female organs-Abscess. (BBCR)

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

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