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Septic abortion and its homoeopathic management

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Abstract

This review article throws light on one of the main obstetric concerns in the developing and undeveloped countries i.e., septic abortion. There is a rising trend in the cases of septic abortion all over the world due to many reasons like unethical or illegal induced abortions and lack of proper education among the mothers. An insight on the causes and complications of this condition are listed in this article along with the prevention and its homoeopathic management. Homoeopathy has an excellent scope in controlling the sepsis and preventing the further deterioration of the health of the women.

Keywords: Fever, sepsis, abortion, septic abortion, illegal induced abortion

Introduction

Any abortion associated with clinical evidences of infection of the uterus and its contents is called septic abortion. Although there are many clinical criteria, abortion is usually considered septic when there are

1. Rise of temperature at least 100.4 f for 24 hours
2. Offensive or purulent vaginal discharge
3. Other signs of pelvic infection such as lower abdominal pain ^[1].

Incidence

The incidence of septic abortions is rising mainly in the developing countries and more in the rural areas. About 10% of the abortions requiring admission in the hospital are septic. The majority of the septic abortions in India are due to the illegal induced abortions. Majority of the cases of abortion associated with sepsis are evident in the abortions done outside the health facilities.

Causes

Septic abortions usually result from use of the non-sterile techniques of uterine evacuation after induced or spontaneous abortions. Septic abortions are most common after the abortions done by untrained personnel and without sterile settings for the procedure. The most common causative organisms responsible for the infection are Escherichia coli, Enterobacter aerogenes, proteus vulgaris, and Hemolytic streptococci and staphylococci organisms. One or more organisms may be involved ^[2].

Clinical features

Clinical features may vary depending on the severity and extent of the infection

- Rise of temperature more than 38 °C.
- Sick and anxious.
- Chills and rigors.
- Persistent tachycardia.
- Hypothermia (endotoxic shock).
- Tachypnoea.
- Impaired mental state.
- Diarrhoea and vomitings.
- Renal angle tenderness.

Signs

- On examination.
- Offensive vaginal discharge.

- Uterine tenderness
- Leucocytosis
- Lower abdominal pain [4].

Investgations

- Cervical or high vaginal swab for culture and sensitivity for bacterial agents.
- Gram staining (to know whether the organisms are gram +ve or gram -ve).
- Complete blood picture – to know the elevated leucocytes.
- Complete urine examination.
- Ultra sonography abdomen and pelvis.
- Blood culture and sensitivity.
- Plain x-ray abdomen – in suspected cases of bowel injury.

Complications

Spread of infection leads to generalized peritonitis, endotoxic shock, acute renal failure and thrombophlebitis.

The other complications include

- Cardiac failure.
- Respiratory failure.
- Liver failure.
- Kidney failure.
- Gangrene [3].

Prevention

Prevention is better than cure. Abortions associated with sepsis can be prevented by following certain guidelines

- Family planning to avoid the unwanted pregnancies.
- Enforcement of legalised abortion in practice to curb the unsafe abortions.
- Education and motivation of the families mainly in rural areas.
- To take antiseptic or aseptic precautions during internal examinations and during operation.

Management

Allopathic management

- Antibiotics.
- Prophylactic anti gas gangrene serum and anti-tetanus serum.
- Analgesics and sedatives.

General management

- Hospitalisation.
- Vaginal examination is to be done to note the abortion

process.

- Overall assessment of the case.

Homoeopathic approach

Rubrics

Murphy: [5]

Pregnancy – miscarriage – sequelae of miscarriage, abortion

BBCR [6]

Female organs – abortus – leucorrhoea -profuse with

Boericke [7]

Female sexual system – leucorrhoea -occurrence – concomitants – history of abortion

Pregnancy and labor – abortion -with septicemia

Synthesis [8]

Generals – convalescence- abortion after

Homoeopathic Therapeutics

Echinacea [9]

Pyæmia, infections spreading from uterus. Foul discharges.

Arnica [9]

Pyæmia, sore bruised sensations, foul odors

Belladonna [10]

Discharge of bright red blood with high degree of fever. Septic abortions. Discharge of blood are hot and the parts are sore and inflamed.

Secale cor [10]

After abortion, there is high degree of fever. Dark offensive lochia. Intense burning pain in uterus

Conflict of Interest

Not available

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Not available

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