



Correspondence

Voiding difficulty caused by old split scar of labia minor



Dear Editor:

Obstructive urinary symptoms caused by labial minor, if not by labial fusion, were rarely reported. Most voiding difficulty caused by labial minor are because of labial fusion, also known as labia adhesions or labia agglutination, which is defined as fusion of the labia minor in the midline or termed vulvar adhesions when they occur below the labia minor [1]. Old split scar of the labia minor plugging the external urethra and causing voiding difficulty was virtually unheard of. We here present a case whose external urethral meatus was plugged by a split labial minor, leading to obstructive urinary symptoms.

The 65-year-old female experienced difficulty urinating for months. She first visited a local urologic clinic, where physical examination of the vulva was omitted. Alpha-blocker was prescribed for symptoms relief but was ineffective. Upon presentation at our department, pelvic examination revealed a split labia minor obstructing urethral meatus without significant cystocele (Fig. 1). She denied history of vulvar trauma, infection or operation, except for vaginal delivery. The split labia minor scar was most likely caused by trauma during delivery. Her voiding difficulty resolved immediately after pulling out the split labia minora from the urethral meatus. Surgical intervention to excise the culprit was suggested to the patient, who hesitated for personal reasons.

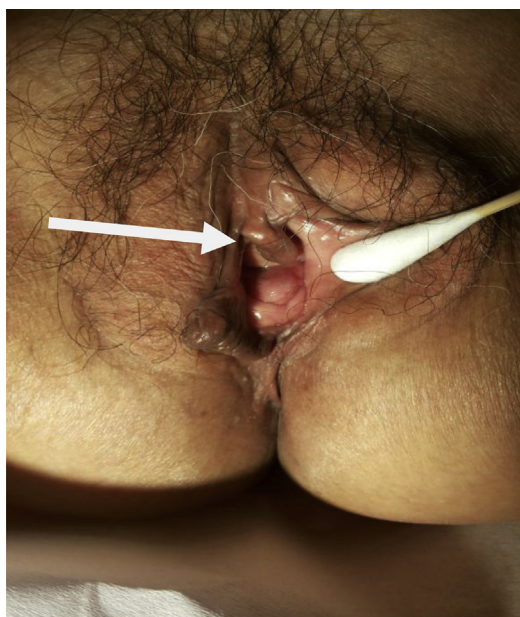


Fig. 1. Pelvic examination revealed split labia minor hindered external urethral meatus.

Obstructive urinary symptom in females is less common than that in males in clinical settings. Clinical history, pelvic examination and urodynamic evaluation are helpful to establish the diagnosis [2]. Obstructive urinary symptoms by labia minor can be diagnosed simply by examining the vulva, but our patient was initially overlooked due to infrequent practice of vaginal examination. Therefore, etiologies of labial minor should be added to the differential diagnosis for women with emptying complaints, in addition to pelvic organ prolapse. Pelvic examination is indispensable in women with obstructive urinary symptoms, for some diagnoses could be made simply by inspection.

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Conflict of interest

None.

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