

A Case of a Live MCDA Twin Ectopic Pregnancy Following a Previous Bilateral Tubal Ligation

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Background

Ectopic pregnancies are a major cause of morbidity and mortality for women of reproductive age. Tubal ligation is a common form of permanent contraception and has a high success rate. However, tubal ligation can fail and can result in a pregnancy, even many years following the procedure. Women who fall pregnant following a tubal ligation have a higher risk of an ectopic pregnancy.¹

Case

A 33-year-old G1P0 was referred to emergency by her GP at 6+2 weeks following a positive urine pregnancy test and an US showing no intrauterine pregnancy and a right adnexal abnormality.

Three years prior she had undergone a laparoscopic bilateral tubal ligation for permanent contraception in Columbia. She otherwise had no past medical or surgical history.



On arrival, she was hemodynamically stable with no abdominal pain or vaginal bleeding. Her bHCG was 16,390. An repeat US was performed which showed a left sided MCDA twin ectopic pregnancy. There were two gestational sacs, yolk sacs and fetal poles of 2.0mm and 2.1mm, with a fetal heart rate present in twin A. There was no free fluid or evidence of rupture.

The decision was made for surgical management and she was taken to theatre for a laparoscopy. This confirmed a ruptured left cornual ectopic and a left salpingectomy was performed. The procedure was uncomplicated with a total blood loss of 100ml. The right tube was noted to be obliterated.

She recovered well postoperatively and was discharged home the following day. She declined hormonal contraceptives at the time and has been referred to gynaecology outpatients to discuss further.

Discussion

The possibility of an ectopic pregnancy needs to be considered in a woman of reproductive age who presents with amenorrhoea and pain, even if they have previously had a tubal ligation. Women undergoing a tubal ligation for contraception need to be counselled on the small risk of failure and potential for an ectopic pregnancy.



References:

1. Peterson, H. B., Xia, Z., Hughes, J. M., Wilcox, L. S., Tylor, L. R., & Trussell, J. (1997). The risk of ectopic pregnancy after tubal sterilization. U.S. Collaborative Review of Sterilization Working Group. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 336(11), 762–767.