Successful Myomectomies during Pregnancy

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Received date: May 10, 2017; Accepted date: December 04, 2017; Published date: December 07, 2017

INTRODUCTION

The prevalence of leiomyoma during pregnancy is reported as 2% [1]. During pregnancy, uterine leiomyoma are usually asymptomatic but may be occasionally complicated by red degeneration and an increased frequency of spontaneous abortion, preterm labour, premature rupture of fetal membranes, malpresentations, obstructed labour, caesarean section and postpartum haemorrhage [1-3].

The management of uterine leiomyoma during pregnancy is largely expectant and its surgical removal is generally delayed until after delivery [4-7]. Because of the increased vascularisation of the uterus during pregnancy, women are at increased risk of bleeding and postoperative morbidity during myomectomy [2,5,6,8,9]. Some reports have shown that myomectomy during caesarean delivery can be safe [7,10-15]. Controversy persists among reports of myomectomy being performed during pregnancy [1], with some case series having reported the safety of antepartum myomectomy in carefully selected patients [17-20].

We present 3 cases of large symptomatic fibroid diagnosed during pregnancy which was successfully managed by antepartum myomectomy.

CASE PRESENTATION

History, examination and management

A 34-year old primigravida presented to our hospital on 6th November 2014 with 3 month history of abdominal swelling and amenorrhea of 13 weeks duration. The abdominal swelling started as a small lump but markedly increased in size in the preceding 2 months. It was associated with pain, severe epigastria discomfort and constipation.

The patient was mild pale and had bilateral pitting pedal edema. The pulse rate was 80 beats per minute and the blood pressure was 120/70mmHg. The respiratory rate was 24 cycles per minute. The abdomen was grossly distended and tense and reaching up to epigastric region. There was a massive central Abdomino-pelvic mass which was firm and irregular, measuring 40 cm from the symphysis pubis.

Abdominal sonography showed an intra-uterine viable singleton fetus of 13 weeks 6 days gestation and a huge fundal fibroid 22 × 19 cm extending up to epigastrium.

Blood tests showed a Hb 9.4 gm% and normal electrolytes, urea and creatinin levels. The woman's blood group was A Rhesus positive decision of myomectomy taken because of the severity of symptoms. Laparotomy was performed under general anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation on 18th nov 2014. the peritoneal cavity was entered through mid-line vertical incision. A large myoma identified at fundus of uterus of size 20 × 20 cm. A transverse incision given at fundus and base of myoma and myoma is removed by sharp and blunt dissection and with help of myoma screw. Endometrial cavity is not entered and uterus is closed with vicryl 2-0 with baseball suture. A huge myoma of size 20 × 20 cm weighing 4 kg is sent for histopathology. The uterus was soft and compatible with 16 weeks pregnancy. The ovary and tubes were grossly normal. The post operating event was uneventful and the patient received 4 units of packed red blood cells. A post-operative ultrasonography was repeated on 14th post-operative day and revealed a single live fetus of approximately 21 weeks 2 days gestation. Patient was discharged on 14th post-operative day and advised for antenatal follow up and HPE report her HPE report initially shows Leiomyosarcoma because of Nuclear pleomorphic and hypercellularity. It was reviewed again in another centre whose HPE report shows Leiomyoma as the above features can be normal in pregnancy [Figure 1].
Figure: The tumor weighing 4 kg was sent for histology.

Intramuscular ritodrine given 2 doses one just before operative day and one on 1st post-operative day along with weekly intramuscular proluton to prevent uterine contractions and the woman had an uneventful post-operative follow up. She was booked for antenatal care and had regular follow up. She underwent elective caesarean at 38 weeks 1 day gestation with delivery of a live healthy female baby weighing 2.75 kg. Her puerperal period was uneventful.

Case 2

A 32 yrs old primigravida admitted throughout patient department with complaint of progressive abdominal swelling along with 18 weeks of Amenorrhoea on 23rd May 2015. She was having abdominal distension which was irregular in shape and corresponding to 36 weeks size of uterus. Her ultrasonography reveals a fibroid in fundal region towards left side measuring 17.1 x 11.1 x 15.3 cm along with an intrauterine pregnancy of 16 weeks 4 days gestation. She underwent myomectomy on 26th May 2015 under GA. Abdominal cavity was opened with midline vertical incision. On opening peritoneum multiple myoma seen a large myoma of size 18 x 12cm seen in posterior wall and a small Myoma of size 4 x 3 cm seen. Posterior wall myoma is removed with myoma screw blunt and sharp dissection. Uterine myometrium closed with vicryl 1 and serosa is closed with baseball suture. Uterus was of size of 16 weeks. Abdomen closed in layers. Both the myomas weighing approx 2 kg was sent for histopathological examination. Her HPE report shows leiomyoma. She was electively admitted at 36 weeks of gestation. Her elective caesarean section was performed at 36 weeks 2 days gestation after giving intramuscular betamethasone 24 hours prior to operation. She delivered a healthy boy baby weighing 2.3 kg. Her puerperal period was uneventful.

REFERENCES