

Perforated duodenal ulcer in third-trimester pregnancy with the survival of both mother and neonate in Ethiopia – a rare cause of acute abdomen in pregnancy: a case report

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Abstract

Background: Perforated peptic ulcer disease is very uncommon during pregnancy. It presents as acute abdomen, but its diagnosis is very challenging in pregnancy, and so more in third trimester. Timely diagnosis and prompt surgical intervention can prevent maternal and fetal mortality. But delayed diagnosis is linked with poor maternal and fetal outcomes. The aim of this case report is to stress health care professionals to keep differential of perforated peptic ulcer disease also in mind while dealing with cases of acute abdomen in pregnancy and to involve multidisciplinary team in management for better feto-maternal outcome.

Case presentation: A 35-year-old gravida 7 and para 6 Ethiopian pregnant woman was presented with a sudden onset right upper quadrant pain, nausea, and vomiting of 7 hours duration in 36 weeks of gestation. She had also bearing down pain and passage of liquor two hours duration. Her abdomen was grossly distended, rigid, diffusely tender which had limited movement with respiration. An upright abdominal x-ray was performed and demonstrated air under the diaphragm. She was diagnosed to have perforated peptic ulcer disease, and the labor was augmented, delivered vaginally a 2.9 kilogram male alive neonate. Two hours after delivery, laparotomy was performed, and repair and omental patch support was created, and the patient was discharged on her 7th postoperative period in stable condition with her baby.

Conclusion: Perforated peptic ulcer disease in pregnancy is rare, which may account for delay in diagnosis and its management. Therefore, high index of suspicion in pregnant women presenting with acute abdomen by obstetricians coupled with coordinated care with other disciplinary teams is necessary to reduce maternal and fetal morbidity and mortality.

Keywords: Perforated peptic ulcer disease, Third-trimester pregnancy, survive, laparotomy