

Title: LITHOPEDION : THE STONE BABY

INTRODUCTION

Lithopedion also known as “stone baby” is a rare complication of ectopic pregnancy where the fetus dies and is not absorbed by the mother’s body but escapes the mother’s immunity by forming a calcified shell around it. The dead fetus thereby remains in the maternal body for considerable period without complications. It is usually an incidental finding. Its incidence is 1.5%-1.8% of all extrauterine pregnancies and 0.0054% of all pregnancies.

CASE PRESENTATION

A 27 year old, P2L2A1 with 2 previous LSCS presented with ON and OFF abdominal pain since 3 years .

OBS HISTORY : Both pregnancies were full term LSCS , uneventful .TUBECTOMY WAS **NOT** DONE.

3RD PREG – Spontaneous conception , UPT done at home, NO EARLY SCANS available .
PATIENT USED MTP KIT OVER THE COUNTER IN 5TH MONTH POG. Patient had

SPOTTING PV for 45 days. Thereafter she started having on and off intermittent abdominal pain occasionally .She was later evaluated with USG , CT , MRI .

USG :

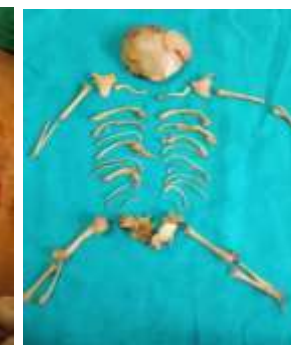
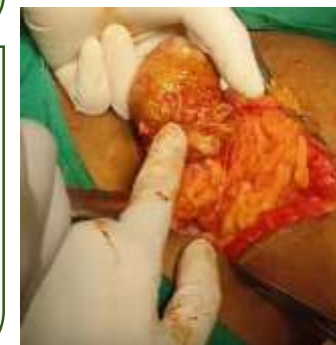
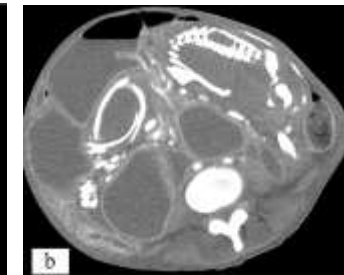
UTERUS – Normal size . Right ovary – normal .Left ovary – is replaced by calcified lesion of 6.5 * 5.2 cm likely DERMOID CYST .

CT SCAN :

LEFT adnexa showing CRUMPLED MUMMIFIED FETUS with crowded skeletal septum noted separate from ovary , s/o CHRONIC LEFT TUBAL ECTOPIC , corresponding to 21weeks period of gestation
IMPRESSION – LITHOPEDION .

CASE OPERATION PROCEDURE

Laparotomy was performed and the encased calcified mass was identified and removed carefully after releasing the omental adhesions. After dissecting the mass , bones were seen which could be arranged into skeleton of fetus.



DISCUSSION

Only about 350 cases of lithopedion have been reported in the medical literature.

REFERENCES : Ede J., Sobnach S., Castillo F., Bhyat A., Corbett J.H. The lithopedion – an unusual cause of an abdominal mass. S Afr J Surg. 2011;49:140-141

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS : I gratefully thank AICOG 2025 for providing a medium to present case report. I also want to thank proff. Dr. I VANI chief of my unit , involved in operating this patient and for guiding me. There was no conflict of interest.

CONCLUSION

Not all lithopedion are asymptomatic, some may present with abdominal pain and swelling. Although quite rare, timely diagnosis can prevent complications caused by ectopics.