

Clinical Image

Posterior cloaca: A rare complex anomaly

Arka Banerjee¹, Pradnya S. Bendre¹

¹Department of Pediatric Surgery, Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children, Maharashtra, India.

*Corresponding author:

Pradnya S. Bendre,
Department of Pediatric
Surgery, Bai Jerbai Wadia
Hospital for Children,
Maharashtra, India.

sahaspradnya@yahoo.com

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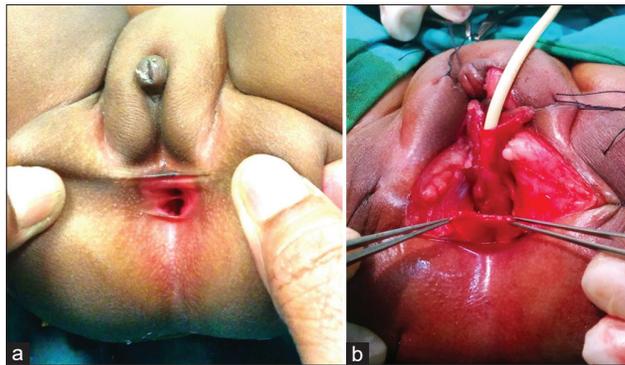


Figure 1: (a) Two openings of urogenital sinus (UGS) and anus, (b) During total urogenital mobilization, UGS is seen catheterized with a normal posteriorly placed anorectum which is left in place.

Coined by Alberto Peña, “posterior cloaca” is a unique defect in females in which a urogenital sinus (UGS) deviates posteriorly to open into the anterior wall of a normally located anorectum (type A) or in the perineum slightly anterior to the anus (type B). [Figure 1a] Initial diagnosis is difficult in girls with normal looking external genitalia as they have a normal anal opening and manual separation of the labia reveals the absence of urethral and vaginal openings.^[1] The ideal repair is Total Urogenital Mobilization by an anterior sagittal incision via transperineal (in cases with a short common channel or 2 separated orifices) [Figure 1b] or transanorectal approach (in longer common channels or when the UGS opens in anterior rectal wall). As the rectum is usually normally located within its sphincteric mechanism, these girls have normal sensation, a normal sphincter mechanism and potential for full bowel control, except those having severe sacral deformities.^[2]

Declaration of patient consent

The authors certify that they have obtained all appropriate patient consent.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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