
Annotation: On the Case of Gross Mammary Hypertrophy-Macromastia/Gigantomastia

From the description of the above case report it seems as if this condition occurs just during pregnancy, rarely though! A case of gross mammary hypertrophy in a pubertal girl of 14 years has already been described in JSOGP (Vol 4, No.1) in the form of Pictorial series by Dr Sadia Khan, on the page inside back cover.

Literature is clear about this condition occurring either at pubertal time, when it is called Virginal Breast Hypertrophy/ Juvenile Macromastia with gross enlargement of breast and nipples, or during pregnancy called Gestational Gigantomastia often starting between 16th – 20th weeks of gestation, but rarely much earlier like in the preceding case, in whom it stated in the 3rd week of pregnancy and progressed fast till the 20th week of her 5th pregnancy. Another unique feature of the case reported by Dr Attiya Begum and co was that this condition had occurred in all 4 of the patient's preceding pregnancies and receded fast thereafter. The condition was accompanied by extreme discomfort.

Even in the case of young girls, extreme enlargement of both the breasts occurs with the breast weight that can reach up to 3% of the total body weight, leading to over stretching of the skin and ulcer formation. The condition is invariably benign in both the cases, be it Juvenile macromastia or gestational gigantomastia. The cause usually being hormonal hypersensitivity, etc etc.

The trouble in the case of young girls however is that the condition does not recede spontaneously and nor are the usual medical treatments including bromocriptine etc, very effective.

Thus resort has to be made to surgical intervention by e.g. reduction mammoplasty or partial mastectomy in selected cases, depending on the amount of discomfort.

Editor-in-Chief

References

1. Keller PJ. A pubertal girl of 14 years with Juvenile macromastia. In: Hormonal disorders in Gynaecology. Berlin, New York: Springer Verlag; 1981.p.101.
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/hypertrophy_of_breasts.