

**MAN OF STONE? - A SURGICAL TALE - A RARE CASE REPORT OF IDIOPATHIC CALCINOSIS OF SHAFT OF PENIS**

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ABSTRACT Idiopathic calcinosis cutis of the shaft of the penis is an extremely rare condition and has only been documented in 11 men as per documented records. It usually presents as an asymptomatic nodule on the mid-to-distal penile shaft or foreskin. Excision of the penile calcific nodules provided a dual benefit by both confirming the diagnosis and successfully resolving the condition without any recurrence. In our case report we aim to observe the case report of a middle-aged man with idiopathic calcinosis cutis of the shaft of the penis.

KEYWORDS : penis, calcinosis, cutis, idiopathic

INTRODUCTION

Calcinosis cutis is a benign, albeit rare, condition. It is characterized by the deposition of insoluble calcium salts in the skin and subcutaneous tissue. [1,2] It is categorized into five types: dystrophic calcification, metastatic calcification, idiopathic calcification, iatrogenic calcification, and calciphylaxis. [1] Here we present the oldest known case of calcinosis cutis of idiopathic etiology and the second case to be reported in India to the best of our knowledge.

Case Summary

Calcinosis cutis is a characteristically described as deposition of insoluble calcium salts in the skin and subcutaneous tissues, a rare entity. A 50-year-old man presented to our outpatient department with pain during sexual intercourse in the last year. He had no other systemic complaints, medical history, drug history, or trauma history. On examination, multiple non-tender nodules of 0.5 x 0.5 cm were palpable on the mid-dorsal penile shaft and mid-ventral penile shaft.

Initial evaluation of the patient was done using blood tests; X-rays and ultrasonography were used for correlation. Blood investigations performed showed normal calcium, phosphorus, and parathyroid levels. An X-ray of the pelvis exhibited abnormal multiple radiopaque shadows over the penile soft tissue. Ultrasonography correlation revealed hyperechoic foci seen in the mid-dorsal and mid-ventral penile shaft with posterior acoustic shadowing, and the corticomedullary differentiation of the kidneys was well made out.

The management included the excision of all lesions under a penile block. Histopathological examination showed basophilic staining of calcium crystals without any surrounding signs of inflammation. A special test, Von Kossa stain, was further used to confirm the calcium deposits. Postoperatively, regular follow-up of the patient after 3, 6, and 9 months revealed no new nodules.

Records of other similar patients with calcinosis of the shaft of the penis were obtained using a popular medical search engine (PubMed Central), and citations were referenced from the papers that were published on this subject.



Figure 1 – X-ray soft tissue- radiopaque nodules

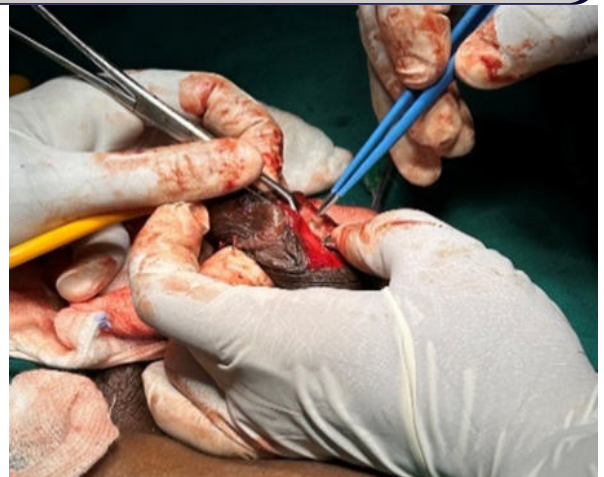


Figure 2 – Excision of the nodules with bipolar cautery

CONCLUSION**Table 1 – Distribution Of Presentation Of Calcinosis Cutis**

Presentation	No. of patients
Asymptomatic	5
Multiple lesions:	6
-Distal Penile shaft	4
-Mid shaft	2
-Both	1
TOTAL	11

Calcinosis of the shaft of the penis is extremely rare and often occurs in patients with end-stage renal disease. [2] Idiopathic calcinosis cutis is a further infrequent occurrence. In this case report, a diagnosis was made by exclusion, using blood investigations, radiograph and ultrasonography and confirmed by HPE due to the presence of basophilic staining crystals present in the dermis. Excision of the penile calcific nodules provided a dual benefit by both confirming the diagnosis and successfully resolving the condition without any functional complications.

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