Reviewer's report

Title: Case report: Perforation of the neovagina in a male to female transsexual

Version: 3 Date: 8 October 2014

Reviewer: Michael Sohn

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Other

Comments to authors:

The authors report a rare case of perforation of a recto-sigmoid vagina into the abdomen in a 33 year old woman. Rupture of a recto-sigmoid neovagina is a very rare origin of an acute abdominal syndrome, but should be kept in mind, especially since more and more male to female transsexual patients receive vaginal reconstruction worldwide. The context of introital stenosis after rectosigmoid neovaginal reconstruction and intraabdominal perforation of the obstructed neovaginal cavity has been previously described as a syndrome of “vanished vagina”. The main advantage of the use of rectosigmoid segments for vaginal reconstruction is the persistence of a sufficient vaginal diameter without frequent dilation. Nevertheless the introitus at the connecting line of intestinal mucosa and skin epithelium tends to contract due to permanent inflammation. If these patients don’t have regular intercourse or dilatation, they are at risk for introital stenosis and subsequent fluid collection in the rectosigmoid segment, which develops slowly and mostly without clinical symptoms. Spontaneous rupture of this dilated segment into the abdominal cavity may occur after several weeks or months of introitus occlusion.

A spontaneous rupture of such a fluid filled intestinal segment without introital stenosis has not been described in the literature to my opinion. Before accepting this manuscript for publication some minor revision should be delivered by the authors:

It should be stated whether the patient had an introitus stenosis at the time of presentation or not.

Furthermore the diameter and volume of the neovagina should be described. If there was no introital stenosis, only unintended perforation of the neovagina during intercourse or manual dilation can be suspected as cause of neovaginal rupture. After these added information the report should be accepted for publication due to its importance for all emergency departments and for all surgeons in the field of male-to-female genital reassignment surgery.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests