SHUNTED FROM LIFE: THE HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES IN PATIENTS WITH URINARY FISTULAE

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Objective: To determine the frequency, and analyze the medical and psycho-social morbidity in patients with urogenital fistulae.

Design: Descriptive

Setting: Department of Gynae/Obst: unit II LUH Hyderabad/Pakistan

Duration: 01-06-1996 to 31-12 2008

Method: All patients with urogenital fistulae were included in study. A pre-designed proforma was used to record the details about medical and social consequences. The depressive illness was evaluated by using Center of Epidemiological Studies Depression (CES-D9) scale. The CES (9) consists of 20 items, which represents major symptoms of depression. The total score ranges 0 to 60. The cut off point was fixed at 16. The score equivalent or higher than that classified the subject is depressed.

Result: During the study duration there were 12,759 gynaecological admissions with 303 of urinary fistulae giving the frequency of 2.3%. The majority of the studies were young with parity < 4. Regarding health consequences 218 (72%) were malnourished, 278 (92%) had excoriation of vulva and inner thighs. The other medical morbidities were vaginal stenosis, bladder calculi, amenorrhoea and dyspareunia andaparaeunia. As far as a social morbidity is concerned 81% were either separated from their husbands or divorced and 11 (3-6%) were quitted from their jobs. All the patients were depressed.

Conclusion: The patients with urogenital fistulae not only suffer from surgical morbidity but have significant medical complications and psycho social problems.