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Let's talk about "OHVIRA syndrome"

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Oxford Patient Safety Collaborative 




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Presentation in A+E (27/01)

- 21yo presented with lower abdominal and back pain, mainly on right side.
- Pain is constant and progressively worse
- Symptoms present for last 6/7.
- Vomiting for last 2 days, constipated for almost a week, but BO with Senna.
- Loss of appetite
- Previous A+E admission for LRTI 5/7 ago, treated with Co-amoxiclav.




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PMH

- No regular medication
- Regular menses, HMB.
- No previous surgeries
- Does not smoke, drinks 4U alcohol/week.
- No allergies



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Exam

- T:38.1, RR:19, P:129, BP: 119/80, So2:98%
- Abdomen soft, mild RIF tenderness
- No guarding

- DD: 1. Appendicitis 2. Mesenteric adenitis 3. Ovarian cyst


- Plan: IV Co-amoxiclav, Septic screen, surgical R/V

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Investigations

- VBG: pH: 7.35, Lac: 1.3
- Urine: (+) leucocytes, protein, blood, 3(+) ketones, UPT negative
- Bloods: Hb:127, WCC: 16, CRP>320, ALT:36, U+Es: normal.
- CT: 1. Complex pelvic collection (7 x 6 x 10cm), arises from left adnexa, inflammatory process extending into the uterus. Suggestive of TOA 2. Right renal agenesis 3. Focal fatty liver infiltration
- Refer to Gynae



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Gynae R/V

- LMP: 2 weeks ago
- Regular periods with dysmenorrhea and HMB
- Regular sexual partner for last few years
- No issues with intercourse

- Speculum + VE: Cervix difficult to visualise, deviated to the left, purulent foul-smelling discharge, fullness felt on anterior fornix, no tenderness. Swabs sent
- Plan: 1. PID abs 2. USS 3. Chase swabs



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28/01

- Stills spiking (on Clindamycin + Gentamicin due to mild allergic reaction to initial regimen).
- Bloods: CRP: 288, WCC: 17.
- USS: 7 x 6.5 x 6.5 cm complex, cystic mass in RIF. Ovaries not clearly visualised. Uterus didelphys.

- Possibility of OHVIRA syndrome raised.
- Plan: For MRI



"Everything is going to be fine. Mrs. Wisert. An orderly is getting a can of Crisco™ and a winch, and we'll have you out of there soon!"

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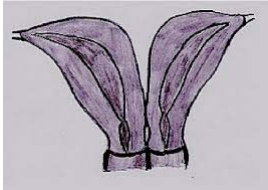
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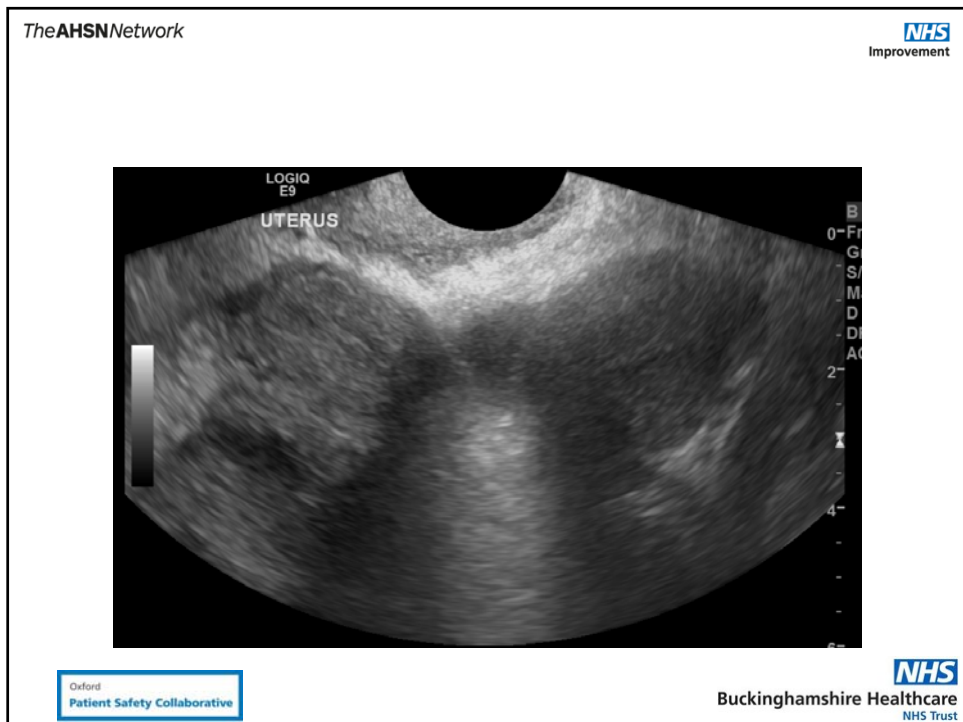
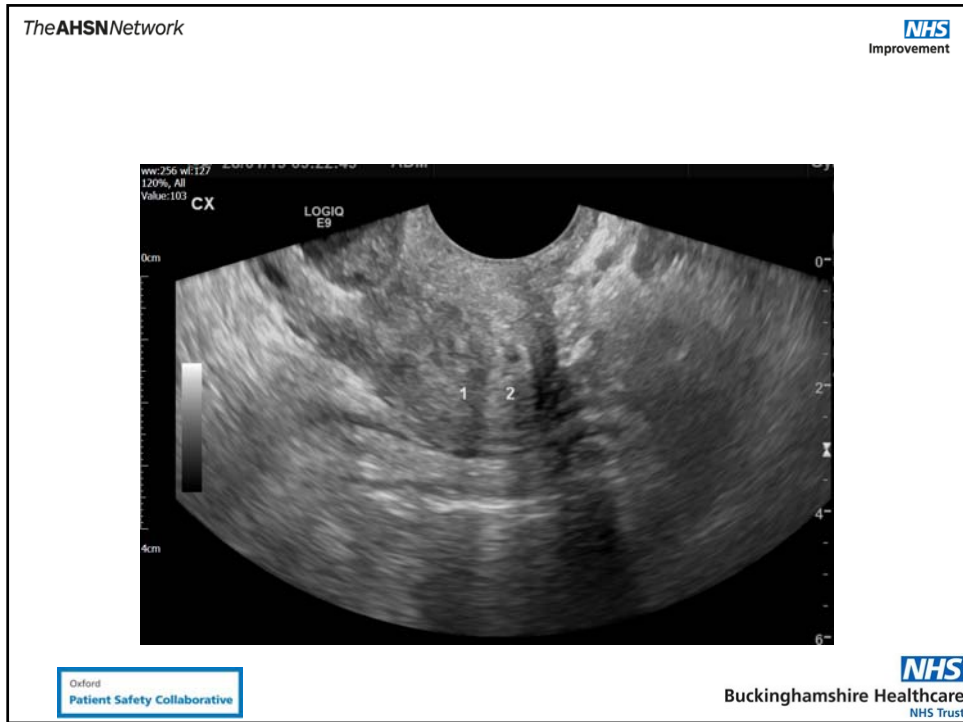
29/01

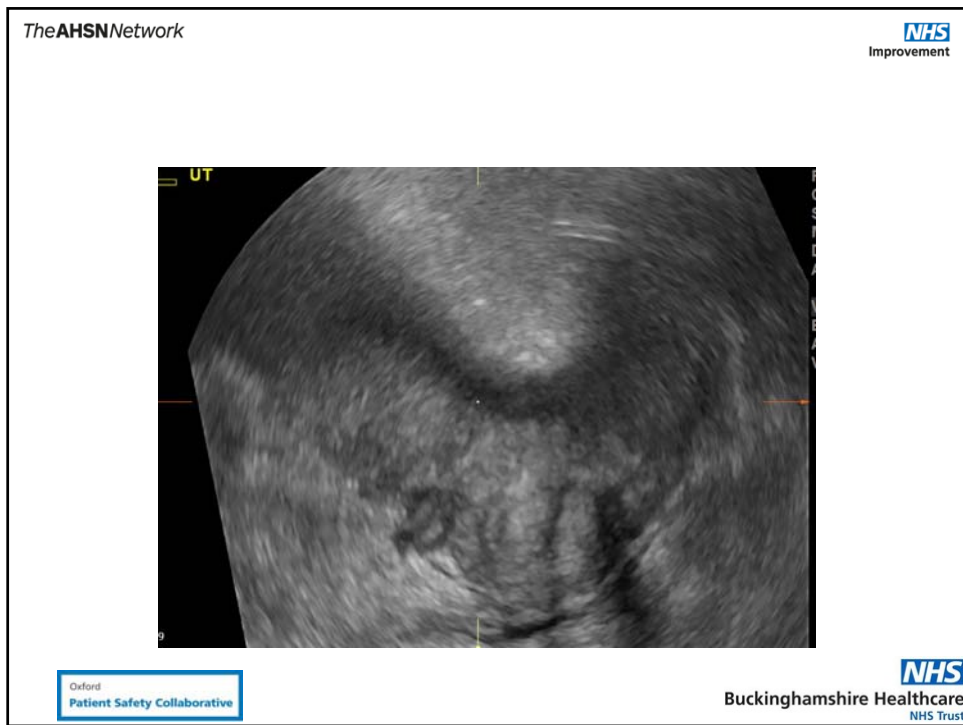
- Still spiking and tachycardic
- CRP: 286, WCC: 15, PLT: 498
- Metronidazole added to antibiotic regimen
- MRI: There is a double uterus and cervix. There is a longitudinal vaginal septum, and the right-sided hemivagina is obstructed, with evidence of haematocolpos. There is also a gas fluid level within its lumen, indicating that the fluid contents may be infected. Probable right hydrosalpinx/TOA noted.
- OHVIRA diagnosis confirmed.



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30/01

- Still spiking
- CRP: 242, WCC: 16.5, PLT:500
- Plan for joint EUA + division of vaginal septum and drainage of haematocolpos +/- laparoscopic drainage of tubo-ovarian abscess on 01/04

- 31/01: Blood cultures negative, inflammatory markers static. Still spiking.


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01/04

- Vaginal septectomy and drainage of pyocolpos + laparoscopic adhesiolysis and drainage of tubo-ovarian abscess.
- Significant bowel adhesions and large left-sided abscess were noted.





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Post-operative recovery



- Inpatient until D4 post-op
- Abdominal drain in situ for 3 days
- Continued IV Meropenem + Doxycycline
- Stopped spiking temperature post-op, pulse normalised after 2 days.
- CRP dropped to 51 and WW to 9.5
- HVS: Mixed anaerobes, sensitive to Metronidazole
- ECS: negative
- Blood cultures negative
- Discharged with a follow up in 4 weeks

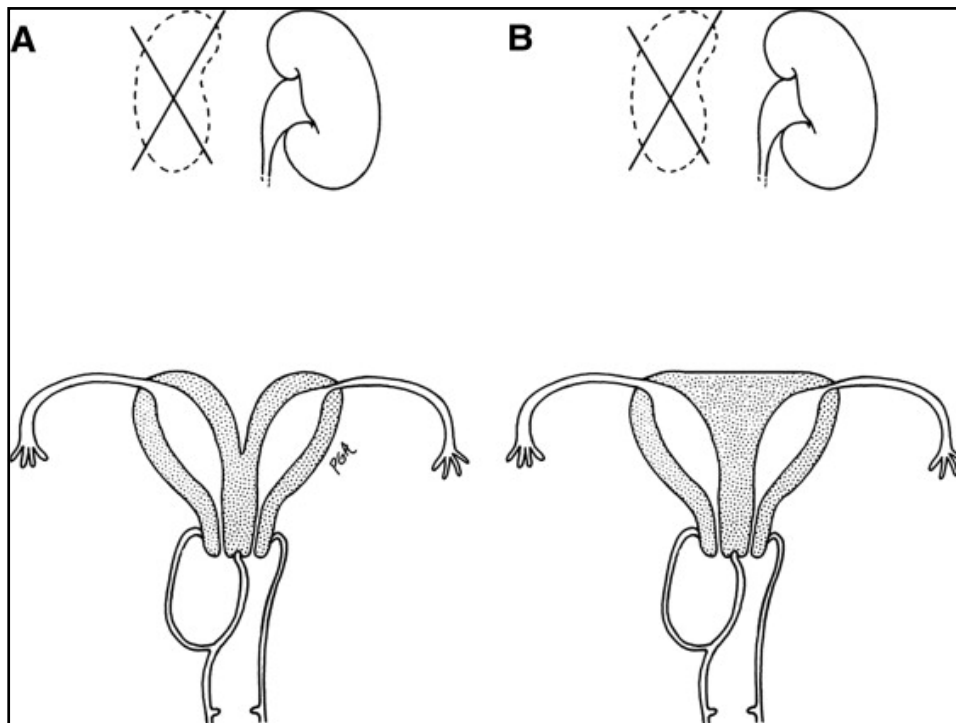
 

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Literature review

- Also called Herlyn-Werner-Wunderlich syndrome
- Almost 300 cases reported
- Rare syndrome
- First described in 1922
- Typically associated with a didelphys uterus with two cervixes and two vaginas, one of which is obstructed. The obstruction usually occurs on the same side as the renal anomaly.
- Renal anomaly is usually a renal agenesis, but also can be dysplastic kidney or duplex kidney.



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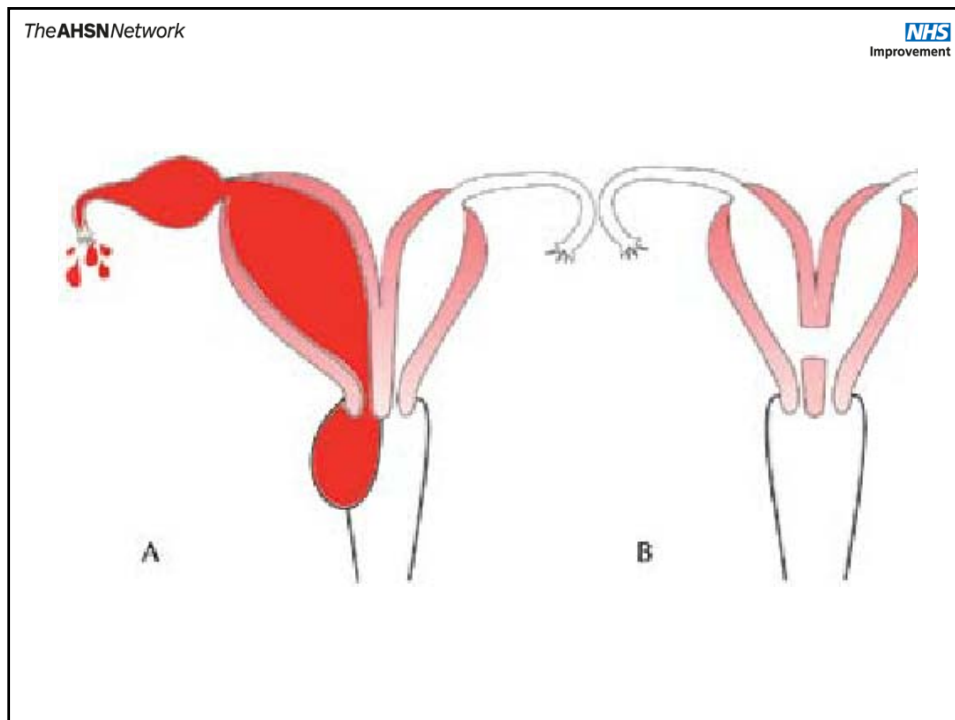
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Symptoms

- Heterogeneous presentation
- Classic clinical scenario is that of a postmenarchal girl with pelvic pain who is found to have a vaginal bulge on pelvic examination
- If the two vaginal orifices communicate can have regular menses; they may present much later with symptoms of persistent vaginal discharge and pelvic pain.

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Diagnosis

- Clinical examination often not reliable
- High index of suspicion needed.
- Over 30% of patients with unilateral renal agenesis have an associated Mullerian anomaly (1)
- MRI is the imaging tool that provides an accurate diagnosis

• 1. Friedman et al, J Paediatr Urol, 2018

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Treatment

- Excision of the obstructing septum followed by a marsupialization of the blind hemivagina is generally the treatment of choice.
- In all patients pain symptoms resolve. Dysmenorrhea resolves in 87% of cases.
- Dyspareunia also resolves if present before diagnosis.
- Laparoscopic drainage of TOA can be performed.
- Some advocate a two-stage procedure: the first surgery to reduce the hematocolpos, and the second to resect the excess septum after a period of wound-healing and vaginal remodeling.
- Hemihysterectomy and ipsilateral hemicolpectomy have been reported in extreme cases.

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Table III.
Associated surgery performed for upper genital tract complications in women undergoing resection of the septum ($n = 37$)


	<i>n</i> (%)
None	26 (70)
Adhesiolysis	4 (11)
Coagulation of endometriotic nodes	4 (11)
Salpingectomy	2 (5)
Paratubal cyst removal	1 (3)
Cystectomy of ovarian endometrioma and ovariolysis	2 (5)

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Fertility implications



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Blind hemivagina: long-term follow-up and reproductive performance in 42 cases ^{FREE}

B. Haddad, E. Barranger, B.J. Paniel

Human Reproduction, Volume 14, Issue 8, 1 August 1999, Pages 1962–1964.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/humrep/14.8.1962>
 Published: 01 August 1999 Article history ▼

- 78% had a didelphic uterus and 22% a complete septated uterus
- 27 out of 42 did not wish to become pregnant
- Nine women who had undergone vaginal septum excision experienced 20 pregnancies after surgical procedure
- Pregnancies occurred mainly in the contralateral cavity (80%)
- Four out of 7 women with didelphic uterus had a preterm birth
- The five patients who underwent hemihysterectomy and ipsilateral hemicolpectomy did not achieve pregnancy.

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Table II.
Upper genital tract complications (n = 41)

	n (%)
None	25 (61)
Haematometra	15 (37)
Haematosalpinx	9 (22)
Pyosalpinx	1
Inflammation of Fallopian tubes	2
Pelvic adhesions	4 (10)
Endometriosis	15 (37)

Table IV.
Reproductive performance of women with blind hemivagina after surgical procedure (n = 9)

	Didelphic (n = 7)	Complete septate (n = 2)	Total n (%)
Pregnancies	17	3	20
Live birth	12	1	13 (65)
Delivery <37 weeks	4	0	4 (20)
Caesarean section	1	0	1
Vaginal	3	0	3
Delivery ≥37 weeks	8	1	9 (45)
Caesarean section	3	0	3
Vaginal	5	1	6
Early spontaneous abortion	3	1	4 (20)
Ectopic pregnancies	1	0	1
Early termination	1	1	2 (10)
Pregnancies ipsilateral to blind hemivagina	3	1	4 (20)

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May 2013, Volume 287, Issue 5, pp 975–978 | [Cite as](#)

Pregnancies in women with uterine malformation, treated obstruction of hemivagina and ipsilateral renal agenesis

- The study group comprised 21 women with malformed uterus (12 didelphic, 6 septate and 3 bicornuate uterus).
- All of them had a history of surgical excision of the longitudinal vaginal septum
- Thirteen out of 21 women attempting pregnancy conceived
- Twenty (91 %) pregnancies ended in delivery of a living infant.
- Preeclampsia (14 %), preterm delivery (36 %), high frequency (38 %) of fetal breech presentation and the cesarean section rate (67 %) were found.

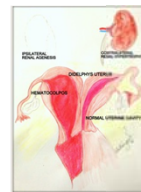
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Conclusion

- High index of suspicion needed for diagnosis
- MRI is the best imaging method
- Early detection in adolescence can prevent future complications
- Resection of vaginal septum usually enough to treat condition
- Complete septated uterus should be excluded



Thank you



Mullerian Duct Anomalies



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Special thanks

- Mr Dada, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
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