'Adolescent labial hair tourniquet'

- Dr Emily Roman
John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW
Emily.roman@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

Introduction

A girl in early adolescence with two presentations of labia minora hair tourniquet

Case

JM, a 12 year old girl presented to ED with her mother complaining of a one week history of vulval pain.
She was otherwise well. She was pre-menarche, not sexually active and had no gynaecological, medical or surgical history

On examination of the external genitalia with consent and her mother present, several strands of non-pubic hair were noted to be tying the left and right labia minora together in two places. The labial tissue within the hair tourniquet was oedematous and very tender but well perfused.
The patient had sedation in the emergency and the hairs were removed.

JM was admitted under obstetrics and gynaecology team on the paediatric ward for observation and further consideration of her social situation and the possibility of child sexual assault leading to intentional hair tourniquet.

Four and a half months later, the now 13 year old girl re-presented with another labial hair tourniquet. This time she reported 2-3 days of labial pain and 1 day history of a black area on her labia. She felt she had already removed the hair this time but her pain persisted.

On examination of the external genitalia with consent and her mother present there was a unilateral strangulated area of labia minora with a very narrow neck but no obvious hair. With topical lignocaine gel the labia was thoroughly examined but no further hairs were found. The necrotic area of labia was excised after being infiltrated with local anaesthetic. Haemostasis was achieved with silver nitrate.

Results

Histopathology of the specimen was consistent with ischaemic infarction

Conclusion

Labial hair tourniquet is a rare finding, sometimes associated with child sexual assault. In this case, it seemed to be spontaneous. JM and her family will be followed up in the community by social services.

References