

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Imperforate Anus Associated with Eventration of Diaphragm

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#### DEAR SIR

Anorectal malformations (ARM) are associated with a myriad of congenital anomalies. The prevalence rates of associated anomalies range from 20% to 80%, commonest being urogenital anomalies. Other important associations and syndromes include Down syndrome and VACTERL (vertebral, anorectal, cardiac, trachea-esophageal, renal, limb) anomalies [1]. ARM has rarely been described in association with diaphragmatic anomalies [2-7]. Fewer than half a dozen cases of diaphragmatic hernia are recorded in the literature; but none of diaphragmatic eventration.



Figure 1: High variety Imperforate anus.

A 36-hour-old male neonate presented with imperforate anus and abdominal distension. There was no meconuria. Antenatal fetal anomaly scanning had not been done. Except for mild tachypnea (respiratory rate 60/min) physical examination of chest was nothing abnormal. Ultrasound of the abdomen did not

reveal any anomaly. Invertogram (Fig. 1) showed a high variety imperforate anus. A sigmoid colostomy was performed. The colostomy started moving and patient was allowed orally the following day. The patient developed respiratory distress after starting feeds. A chest radiograph showed eventration of left hemidiaphragm (Fig. 2). A nasogastric tube inserted for gastric decompression alleviated the respiratory distress. The patient underwent plication of the diaphragm electively on 8th day of life. Postoperative recovery was uneventful. The patient is lost to follow-up.



Figure 2: Elevated left hemidiaphragm in the same patient.

Eventration of diaphragm usually presents with respiratory distress and recurrent respiratory tract infections although it may remain asymptomatic when it is diagnosed incidentally on radiological investigations. In the index case, respiratory distress developed after initiating feeds led us to investigate the cause. Eventration of diaphragm is seldom reported

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with imperforate anus. Ein SH [3] has reported the only case of imperforate anus associated with multiple anomalies including rectal and colonic atresias, syndactyly, and eventration of right hemidiaphragm. A literature search did not retrieve any case of imperforate anus associated with eventration of left hemidiaphragm.

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