

ARTIFICIAL NODULES OF THE PENIS

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A case artificial nodules of the penis, which may enhance the sexual stimulation in the partner is discussed.

Introduction:

The practice of implantation of foreign bodies under the penile skin has achieved popularity in the Far East and South East Asia. The foreign bodies inserted, which will resemble a nodule, is inserted by the person himself or by an untrained person. Various kinds of foreign bodies are used for this purpose (Tab I). This condition is known by several names. The most popular names are given in Tab II.

The number of objects implanted may vary from two to five and usually harmless to the penis⁽¹⁾. Usually the material used will not cause any allergic reaction.

Case Report:

A 29 year old Thai male patient attended the clinic for a urethritis. While examining the patient apart from the urethral discharge, he had multiple hard "nodules" on the shaft of the penis on the dorsal aspect, which were three in number. Further questioning revealed he has implanted this oval smooth glass pieces with the help of a friend 4 years before. He never experienced any discomfort with this nor his wife had any pain or discomfort during sex.

Discussion:

The practice of implanting smooth stones, bead of glass or plastic pieces in the penile skin is not uncommon in the Far East and South East Asia⁽²⁾.

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The spheres are fashioned by melting the glass and these are used for inserting into the superficial fascia of the shaft of the penis. Some people shows affinity for some particular location of the shaft of the penis.

The nodules are implanted to enhance excitation and sexual pleasure of the partner during sexual intercourse⁽³⁾. This practice is quite common in Thailand. These nodules are usually asymptomatic. The physician detect these accidentally during the genital examination of the patient, for some other complaints. The most commonly used material for the purpose of implantation is the Tancho Pomade Glass, which is known as "Tancho's Nodule". Tancho is a Japanese hair pomade widely used in the Far East and South East Asia.

Even though the main reason for the introduction of this nodule is sexual stimulation, sometimes this may cause discomfort and vaginal bleeding⁽⁴⁾. The origin of the artificial penile nodule is disputed.

MATERIALS USED FOR ARTIFICIAL NODULES OF THE PENIS	
●	TANCHO HAIR POMADE BOTTLE PIECE
●	PLASTIC BUTTON PIECE
●	PIN BALLS
●	IVORY
●	PEARL
●	JEWEL
●	WOOD
●	RUBBER ERASURE
●	BULLETS
●	TOOTH BRUSH HANDLE PIECE

Table I

**VARIOUS NAMES USED
TO DENOTE ARTIFICIAL
NODULES OF THE PENIS**

- TANCHO NODULES
- BULLEETUS
- CHAGAN BALLS
- MUKSA
- PENIS MARBLES
- PAPULAR PEARLY PENILE PEARL

Table II

Many authors believe this practice arose after World War II⁽⁵⁾. Another practice resembling to this implantation is seen in Japan, that might be the fore runner of the Tancho's nodule, a peculiar ribbon made of dried plants were tied onto the penis to excite the partner both mechanically and chemically⁽⁶⁾.

Rarely complication like foreign body granuloma has been reported⁽⁷⁾. Sometimes they may cause pain, discomfort and vaginal bleeding in the partner, even though it is rare.

The practice of this type is uncommon in the Middle East, and a patient with this entity may con-

fuse the Physician. This will be more alarming if the patient is from Far East and difficult to understand his language.

The diagnosis of this condition is made from the history and the stony hardness of the implant. All such patients should be screened for sexually transmitted diseases.

Awareness of this practice is essential for the physician to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.

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