LITHOPEDION "STONE BABY" : THE FIRST PHILIPPINE CASE REPORT

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A Lithopedion "Stone Baby" is a term for an intra-abdominal pregnancy that resulted to the calcification of the products of conception. Simply, it is a bony or calcified fetus from an advanced extrauterine pregnancy.

It is a very rare medical phenomenon with an incidence being reported as 1.5 – 2% of all ectopic pregnancies; considering that ectopic pregnancy incidence is 0.3 -0.1% of the totality of gestations. The incidence of true lithopedion is less than 300 cases in the entire history of medicine. Furthermore, there is no reported case here in the Philippines.

This report aims to document the first known case of lithopedion "stone baby" in the Philippines. It will define the pathologic significance, epidemiology, diagnosis and management of such a case. It will also encompass the pathophysiology in the creation of this rare medical phenomenon.



Figure 1. Pelvic Ultrasound. Note opacity within a hypoechoic mass, allegedly to be the intrauterine device (red circle)

CASE REPORT

- **27 year old female, with a chief complaint of increasing severe crampy abdominal pain for 10 days in duration**
- **Obstetric History: history of IUD use; unremarkable the medical and surgical history**
- **Physical Examination: Flabby abdomen with a movable mass and mild hypogastric tenderness**
- **Ultrasound: Two pelvic masses with a solitary opague structure, allegedly an IUD (Fig.1)**
- **Clinical Diagnosis: Pelvo-Abdominal Abscess**
- **Management: Exploratory Laparotomy with Evacuation of Pelvic Abscess**
- **Intraoperatively, a pelvic phlegmon containing 1 liter of abscess was noted. Within the phlegmon, a distorted fetal skeleton with evidence of decomposition was evacuated. The pelvic phlegmon was adherent to the bladder, colon and pelvic side walls. The uterus was normal sized with an area of rupture at the posterior uterine wall. (Fig. 2)**

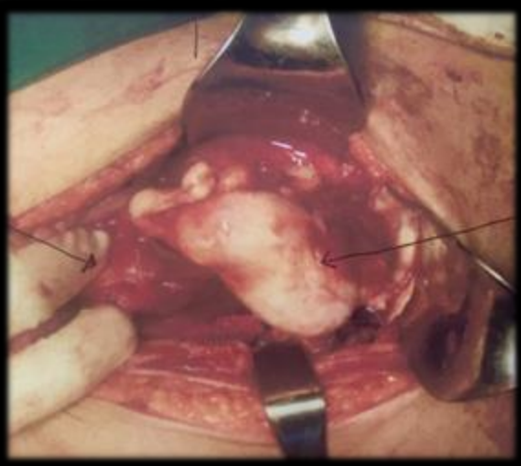
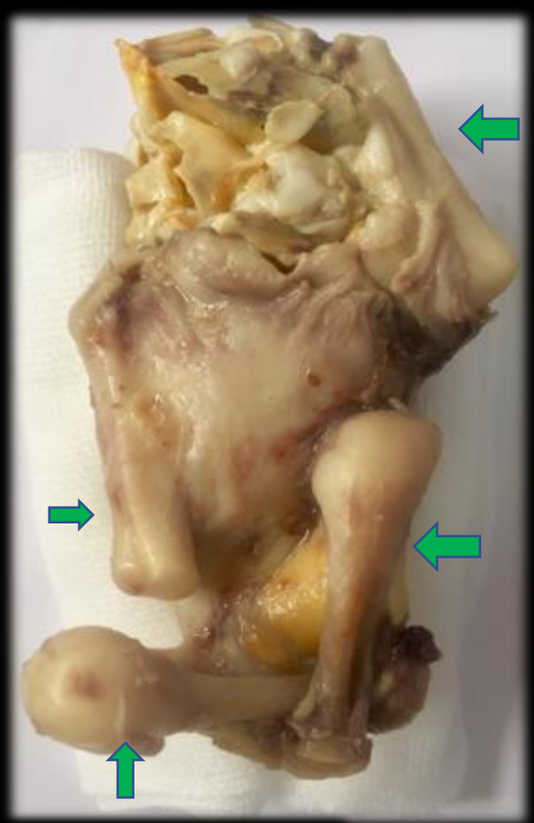


Figure 2. Intraoperatively, a distorted fetal skeleton was evacuated from within the phlegmon (green arrow), with surrounding fibrotic membranes noted (blue arrow)







DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Lithopedion is a term derived from the Greek words *lithos* (meaning stone) and *pædion* (meaning child)
- an extra-uterine dead fetus that has become calcified
- condition was first observed by Albucasis, an Arabian surgeon, in the 10th century
- less than 300 cases have been reported in medical literature
- No reports were cited from the Philippines
- age range of these patients is from 23 to 100 years old, (two-thirds of these patients being over 40 years old)
- develops as a result of an abdominal pregnancy, which is a consequence of a ruptured ectopic pregnancy which did not receive prompt medical intervention → instead of being absorbed, the products of conception undergo a complex process of calcification → promoting factors: undetected extrauterine pregnancy, sluggish local blood circulation, sterile fetus and local conditions that favor calcium deposition
- Three specific types of lithopedion, according to which structures (fetus, membranes or both) are calcified
- According to medical literature, lithopedion cases are detected as incidental findings during routine physical examinations, surgeries and autopsies
- The final diagnosis of a lithopedion is the correlation of pathologic, clinical and radiologic findings
- Currently, there is no consensus in the management and treatment of these lithopedion cases due to its rarity
- this sidestep and belies the significance of the advancements in the modernized world
- in developing countries like the Philippines, this phenomenon serves as a grim reminder of the poor health care that currently prevails

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