Letter to the Editor

April 12th, 1984

Splenetic rupture in pregnancy

Sir,

I was interested to read the case report of a ruptured spleen occurring in early pregnancy (Lamberton, 1983) and would like to report a case of splenic rupture which occurred in the 16th week of a 40-year-old’s seventh pregnancy. She presented with upper abdominal pain of sudden onset radiating to her back and left shoulder. Physical examination revealed a patient in hypovolaemic shock with tenderness in the left hypochondrium and a positive Kehrs sign. The absence of vaginal bleeding suggested a surgical rather than an obstetrical source of haemorrhage and the clinical diagnosis of splenic rupture was confirmed at laparoscopy. She made an uneventful recovery following splenectomy and the pregnancy proceeded normally. Pathological examination identified a cavernous haemangioma of the spleen as the source of haemorrhage. The presence of both thrombus and fresh clot, along with the active bleeding encountered at surgery, suggest that this was a delayed rupture. Spontaneous rupture of a splenic haemangioma has been described only in late pregnancy (Campbell, 1962.) It may be that minor trauma was the precipitating factor in this present case.

Yours faithfully,

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References


Splenic rupture in pregnancy.

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