

A Case of Fournier's Gangrene

Chintamani*

Rohan Khandelwal*

A-36- yr old gentleman, a known alcoholic and a chronic smoker presented to the surgical emergency with swelling in the perineal region and fever of 5 days duration. He had been catheterized a week back for urinary retention. Examination revealed a febrile patient with tachycardia (104/min) & hypotension (90mm systolic). There were local signs of inflammation around the scrotum, extending upto the anterior abdominal wall. There were scattered gangrenous patches in between the areas of inflammation. A clinical diagnosis of Fournier's gangrene was made and after adequate resuscitation, patient was taken up for aggressive debridement. Pus cultures and other relevant investigations were done and the patient was started on antibiotics (covering aerobic and anaerobic bacteria). Regular bed side debridements were done. The raw area was covered with split thickness skin grafting once the pus culture was negative.

Fournier's gangrene is a type of necrotizing fasciitis of the perineal and scrotal region usually caused by synergistic and symbiotic bacterial infection (aerobes and anaerobes). It has a variable presentation & is more common in diabetics and immunocompromised patients. Diagnosis of Fournier's gangrene requires a high degree of suspicion and the treatment includes early and aggressive debridements with appropriate antibiotic

cover. Fournier's gangrene severity index (FGSI) is a score, similar to the APACHE score and can be used as a prognostic indicator in patients with Fournier's gangrene. A score of more than 7 signifies a poor clinical course and a higher risk of mortality.

References

1. Yenyol CO, Suelozogen T, Arslan M, Ayder RA. Fournier's gangrene: Experience with 25 patients and the use of Fournier's gangrene severity index score. *Urology* 2004; 64(2): 218-22.
2. Chintamani, Shanker M, Singhal V, Singh JP, Bansal A, Saxena S. Squamous cell carcinoma developing in the scar of Fournier's gangrene- Case Report. *BMC Cancer* 2004; 4:16 doi:10.1186/1471-2407-4-16.
3. Lin E, Yang S, Chiu AW, Chow YC, et al. Is Fournier's Gangrene Severity Index useful in predicting outcome of Fournier's Gangrene. *Urol. Int.* 2005; 75 (2): 119-22.

Fig.1: Initial debridement being carried out after urinary diversion



*Department of Surgery, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi.

Correspondence: Dr. Chintamani, Department of Surgery, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi. E-mail: drchintamani7@gmail.com.