

## Gestational Trophoblastic Disease: Know the unknown



Prof. Nutan Agarwal

Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD) is a unique disorder of fetal tumour in maternal tissue. Diagnosis of this wide spectrum condition is frequently delayed due to its unusual presentations. We usually follow all old described criteria's, here are some of my observations based on my clinical based experience which can be considered in future now.

One has to be more vigilant to diagnose partial mole. Ruling out of partial mole should be essential in certain cases, specially diagnosed as missed abortions. One should suspect partial mole in following situations:

1. If patient is having persistent nausea or vomiting even in failed early pregnancy.
2. There are increasing  $\beta$ hCG levels despite USG showing missed abortion.
3. Proper USG should be done in all cases of missed abortion.
4. Histopathology should be obtained in all cases of missed abortions So that required  $\beta$ hCG follow up can be performed for timely diagnosis of Gestational trophoblastic neoplasia.
5. If Medical methods are used for termination, patient can be guided to be vigilant for expulsion of products and collect them in saline bottle which

can be provided before, where microarray can be tested on these products.

**Points to ponder:** More than 60 cases of GTD were observed where I found 8 cases of partial mole out of 8, 1 developed locally invasive disease and 2 Metastatic. Hence I reached on following conclusion.

1. Partial mole incidence may be more than reported. One has to be more vigilant to diagnose.
  - Any missed abortion, if nausea vomiting, suspect this condition.
  - Always do  $\beta$ hCG levels in missed abortion.
  - Always get histopathology of these cases.
2. Partial mole may cause more metastatic disease than reported as they are likely to be missed and later cases of metastatic GTD may be falsely anticipated following antecedent abortion.
3. Partial mole also should be evaluated thoroughly and followed up properly with  $\beta$ hCG levels, it should not be underestimated.
4. Large multicentre trials are required to establish the facts about partial mole.

