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A Man Without Manliness: A Case Of Involuntary Castration

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ABSTRACT

The practice of castration has its roots before recorded human history and male castration was performed for social reasons in prehistoric times.[1] Though, antiquity has revealed variety of reasons for the forced involuntary castration of males but here we are discussing a case of 26 years married male who was in the business of dancing to earn his livelihoods in the company of eunuchs, commonly called as *hijra / kinners*. One day they took him in an ebriated condition to an unknown isolated place where his private parts were severed and removed. On gaining conscious, he noticed pain in the area of his private parts and found that his scrotum and penis were removed without his consent. He was beaten mercilessly when he protested and then was sold him to another identical group who forced him to in the male prostitution. Examination and investigations established his sex and surgical intervention carried out as per his allegations.

Keywords: Eunuch, castration, hijra/kinner

Introduction

Sometimes there is news that some emotionally disturbed and motivated male has voluntarily got his sex changed. But it is rarely reported when a male was castrated without his consent. Here the victim, a normal adult married male and perfect dancer, was allured by natural born eunuchs to be in their company for earning his livelihood and was castrated without his consent in an inebriated condition for keeping him permanently in their company as a source person, because these so called third sex persons usually remained engaged in singing and dancing mostly on uninvited occasions like birth of a male child, opening of a shop and other happy moments in a family etc. and always conscious to take a naturally born eunuch in their locality for increasing their population. Recently it was reported that a quack was held for turning twenty men into eunuchs by castration after giving cold drink laced with sedative as alleged by the police.[2]

Gamut of incident

The victim was a 26 years old un-employed male married since 2005 belonging to a poor family comprising of two brothers and two sisters and the burden of the whole family was on his shoulders, therefore, he started doing the job as a dancer in the marriage parties and other such functions prior to his marriage. In the meantime, a group of kinners observed in him a perfect dancer, so then allured him to work with them and promised to give him a handsome salary for his livelihood which he needed the most, so he joined their group. Everything went well for about one year. It was in 2008, after organizing a big function, they gave him some inebriant in the meal due to which he became unconscious and was taken to a doctor who illegally without his consent amputated his sex organ. On gaining consciousness he felt pain for which he was given injections to make him unconscious and like this he was kept in bed for about a month. During this period, they kept on sending financial help to his wife. And she was also informed that he had gone with some dance party and would return after 3 to 4 months. When he became conscious and aware about his condition after about a month, he protested. He was then beaten and was not allowed to go home. Meanwhile, he was also forced into illegal trade of boy prostitution; when he raised objections and requested them to release him they beat him mercilessly and forced him to take intoxicants. Afterwards, they sold him to another group who compelled him to be a slave and forced him to do male prostitution. One night, when he was forced to sleep with a person in a hotel; he ran away from there and he somehow reached his house and narrated the whole story to his relatives.

On his complaint a case was registered and the victim was taken to a peripheral hospital for his medicolegal examination for proving his allegations. The board of doctors at peripheral hospital on preliminary examination concluded their inability to reply the query and referred the complainant to Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak for expert opinion.

Observation & Clinical examination: - We observed that the subject was a well built person dressed in male garments. Distributions of hair were (though scanty on face) male type, female looking on the pubic area, scanty lanugo hairs on chest and having 2-3cms black axillary hairs. The carrying angle was male type. Breasts were slightly enlarged and elevated resembling configuration of younger female. The fat was deposited on the abdomen, thighs and mons pubic areas. The linear vertically placed de-pigmentation of skin was present over upper outer aspect of abdomen and on lateral aspect of the thighs.

Local examination:-There was a surgical partially healed reddish tender 'angry' wound in the form of an elongated cleft in midline in the perineum with remarkable asymmetrical folds of skin on either side resembling labia majora. The multiple healed stitch scar marks were appreciable over and around both the margins of skin folds in the perineum. Opening of urethra was situated posteriorly with inflamed and tender raw area. On urination the stream of urine was falling forwards. The clitoris or the like structure and labia minora were not visualized (Fig-1). These structures can be compared with the normal appearances of female external genitals to prove surgical intervention in the perineum (Fig-2).



Figure 1. On opening the asymmetrical folds of the skin resembling the labia majora partially healed multiple stitch scar marks on both sides and an anteriorly placed hole (urethral) surrounded by reddish angry tender scar was visualized in the middle part of this surgically made wound. No clitoris and labia minora were appreciated.



Figure 2. Normal appearance of female external genitilia comprising of labia majora, labia minora and clitoris in the same age group as of victim.

Investigations

the buccal smear did not disclose equivocal proof for sex chromatin. However, karyotyping was of a normal male type. MRI of pelvis revealed normal urinary bladder, seminal vesicles and prostate. Uterus and bilateral adenexa were not visualized. Bilateral testes were not demarcated in the inguino-scrotal region. The cord like structures was discerned in the region of bilateral spermatic cord. A stump like structure was seen in the midline at the level of pubic symphysis with oval structures suggestive of corpora cavernosa. Pelvis was of android male type.

The overall impression of the physical, radiological, sex chromatin examinations and karyotyping concluded that the complainant was a male person. The partially healed scars in the perineum were indicative of surgical manipulations and consistent with the period of his allegations. Moreover, the presence of remnant of cord like structure in the region of spermatic cord and a stump in the pubic area suggestive of remnant of corpora cavernosa, pointing out the amputation of penis along with bilateral orchidectomy.

Discussion and Conclusion

The word eunuch comes from the Greek word "eunouchos" and the Latin word "eunuchus" -- both meaning "keeper of the bedchamber" and the more relevant concept contained *within* the word is "one who can be trusted to watch over the inner household"; or more to the point, a male servant who won't let anyone (including himself) knock up your wife and daughter while you're away. Although banned in India in 1955, eunuchs have made a big come back where they now have their own political party.[3]

Castration may be either chemical or surgical induced. In the former the administrations of medication is designed to reduce libido and sexual activity and in the later the penis and testis are removed through an incision in the body and both organs were cut off with a knife at the same time.[4] Castration is commonly performed on domestic animals not intended for breeding and to avoid unwanted or uncontrolled reproduction.[5]

Hijra, a Hindi and Urdu term traditionally translated into English as "eunuch", actually refers to what modern Westerners would call male-to-female transgender people and effeminate homosexuals (although some of them reportedly identify as belonging to a third sex). Some of them undergo ritual castration, but the majority does not. They usually dress in saris (traditional Indian garb worn by women) or salwar kameez (a uni-sex-dress worn by both men and women in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh) and wear heavy make-up. They typically live in the margins of society, face discrimination.[6] In the epic Mahabharata of India, Arjuna, one of the five heroes – a person who is originally a handsome man, warrior and great archer – becomes Brihannala, disguised as a hijra, when the five spend their last year of exile in the kingdom of Virata. Brihannala/Arjuna lived among the palace women as a teacher of song and dance.

Skoptzy (or Skoptsy, meaning the castrated), also called the White Doves, were a Christian sect whose male members, to attain their ideal of sanctity, subjected themselves to castration. Because they believed that the second coming of Christ would occur only when the number of Skoptzys reached the apocalyptic number of 144,000, they became ardent proselytizers. Male members of the sect were encouraged to take either the “great seal” (removal of the penis, the scrotum, and the testes) or the “lesser seal” (removal of the scrotum and testes, leaving the penis intact). Women were not castrated, but were subjected to mutilation of the breasts and external genitalia.[4,7,8]

Eunuchs were frequently employed in Imperial Indian palaces as servants for female royalty, and often attained high-status positions in Indian society. Eunuchs were highly valued for their strength, ability to provide protection for ladies' palaces and trustworthiness, allowing eunuchs to live amongst women with fewer worries. This enabled eunuchs to serve as messengers, watchmen, attendants and guards for palaces. Often, eunuchs also doubled as part of the King's court of advisers.[9,10] Considering high-status job available for eunuchs, poor families often converted one of their sons into a eunuch and had him work in the imperial palaces to create a steady source of revenue for the family and ensure a comfortable lifestyle for the son. This practice of castration was banned throughout the Empire in 1668 by Aurangzeb, but continued covertly.

Involuntary castration appears in the history of warfare, sometimes used by one side to torture or demoralize their enemies. It was practiced to extinguish opposing male lineages and thus allow the victor to sexually possess the defeated group's women. Castration was one of the punishments[11] that could be legally inflicted on criminals for rape,[8,12] adultery, intercourse without morality,[13] overthrown enemies,[14] revolted tribal boys and then distributed them as eunuch slaves as gifts to various officials,[7] reducing the death penalty into castration.[8] The male linage of rebellious "sedition were castrated and turned into eunuch to work in the Imperial Palace in China.[9] The exact crime was called Gong, and referred to "immoral" heterosexual sex between males and females. It was also used for reducing the punishment for rape, polygamy or sodomy from death to castration.[15] In modern times, the practice of surgically castrating convicted sex offenders was made on the presumption that it might be beneficial to them.[16,17] Recently an article in the *Gulf Times* revealed a major sex trade of trafficking boys for prostitution mostly of Nepalese boys who were lured to India and sold to brothels in Mumbai, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Lucknow and Gorakhpur.[18] Whereas, now in India whenever a victim has suffered involuntary amputation of penis and scrotum then the maximum punishment shall be imprisonment for life or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine.[19]

Almost every sect of society or religion worldwide has mentioned about the natural born eunuchs or the one forcefully converted or voluntarily got into it for one or the other reasons (supra), but the instant subject, a normal married male person who became an easy prey in the hands of a natural born eunuchs while earning his livelihood in their company, a rare occurrence, with the intention of keeping him as a perfect dancer in their company permanently as a source person who earn their living in various ways, e.g., by coming uninvited at weddings, births, new shop openings and other major family events and singing until they are paid or given gifts to go away.[20] The ceremony is supposed to bring good luck and fertility, while the curse of an unappeased hijra is feared by many. Other sources of income for the hijra are begging and prostitution. The begging is accompanied by singing and dancing and the hijras usually get the money easily. Some Indian provincial officials have used the assistance of hijras to collect taxes in the same fashion; they knock on the doors of shopkeepers, while dancing and singing, and embarrass them into paying. Recently, hijras have started to form organizations to improve their social condition and fight discrimination. There has even been a wave of hijra entering politics and being elected to high political positions. More recently they have reached from the streets to the reality shows on screens.

The victim, an adult male enjoying his happy married life, after amputation of his external genitalia without his consent, has been put not only to great stress and strain for whole of his life along with

his spouse and relatives but have suffered consequent adverse physiological changes also which need constant attention.

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