

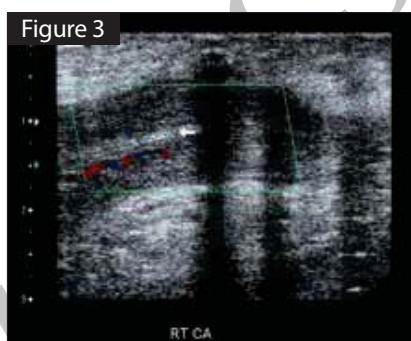
Penile Skin Necrosis Mimicking Penile Gangrene

An Unusual Case

An 80-year-old man presented with dry gangrene of the penis secondary to a rubber-band constriction. He started using a rubber-band for urine incontinence one month ago following which his penis started to blacken. The whole penis, including the glans and the shaft, was black, nontender, and woody hard with a demarcation line at the penoscrotal junction (Figures 1 and 2).

Color Doppler ultrasonography revealed no flow in the cavernosal arteries (Figure 3). Initially, a suprapubic cystostomy was done. Subsequently, penile amputation and perineal urethrostomy were planned. However, intraoperatively, the penis was found to be viable underneath a necrosed skin, and only a debridement was performed followed by split-thickness skin grafting harvested from anterolateral aspect of the thigh two weeks later (Figure 4). Penile gangrene is a rare, but grave sequel following infection or ischemia. Vascular compromise may be caused by tourniquet syndrome, priapism, venous thrombosis, and anticoagulants, and can also be seen in diabetics with end-stage renal disease.⁽¹⁾ Strangulation caused by hair, nuts, rings, threads, bands, and bottle necks has been reported mainly for autoeroticism or in the mentally challenged.⁽²⁾ Color Doppler ultrasonography can provide invaluable information regarding thrombosis or rupture of cavernosal and dorsal penile vessels.⁽³⁾

The presentation in this case was unusual and we were able to salvage the penis despite the clinical and radiological suspicion of non-viability.



Sagar Sabharwal,* John Samuel Banerji, Nitin Sudhakar Kekre

Department of Urology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India

*E-mail: thatsagar@gmail.com

REFERENCES

1. Singh V, Sinha RJ, Sankhwar SN. Penile gangrene: a devastating and lethal entity. *Saudi J Kidney Dis Transpl.* 2011;22:359-61.
2. Malik MH, el Amir Z, Ali M, Ahmed A, Farooqi MA. Penile strangulation: A study of fifteen cases. *RMJ.* 2012;37:30-3.
3. Bargallo X, Bunesch L, de Juan C, Vilana R, Bru C. Constrictive penile band injury: Color Doppler sonographic assessment. *J Ultrasound Med.* 2002;21:215-7.