

INTER SEX DISORDERS IN INDIA: SOCIAL PROBLEMS

AC Ammini

Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, All India Institute of Medical Sciences

It is a general observation that large number of children with inter sex disorders born in India do not receive medical attention during infancy. We tried to assess the reason for this from parents of children with inter sex disorders and the affected individuals. The reasons that were given by parents were:

1. Fear of Hijras. Hijras are a distinct group of people seen in most parts of India. However there is little authentic data on their physical state, genotype or hormonal profile (Ref. 1). The general belief is that they have malformed genitalia. They always visit homes with newborns and bless them and demand gifts. It is believed that if the Hijras get to know the child has ambiguous genitalia they will take away the child.
2. Lack of awareness. Large number of deliveries are conducted at home, sometimes even without a trained birth attendant. The parents often do not know where to go for help when they realise there is a problem.
3. Ashamed/afraid. Parents are afraid/confused/ashamed to talk about the problem of their child and seek help.
4. Inadequate/inappropriate medical facilities. There are only few hospitals in India which has trained manpower and facilities to investigate and treat children with genital ambiguity. So they need to travel long distances and incur lot of expenses.
5. Improper neonatal/child care. We had two subjects who had traumatic castration as they were left unattended during early childhood.

This information would be of help to plan management strategies for children with inter sex disorder.

Presentation Type: Oral Presentation

Authorize Publishing: Yes

Contact information of Abstract Presenter:

Title: Dr.

Name: A. C.

Surname: Ammini

Institution: All India Institute of Medical Sciences,

Address: Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism

110029 New Delhi, India

E-mail: aca433@yahoo.com