



The Recto-Vesical Ligament: Myth or Reality?

Raja Briki, Ons Cherif*, Mouna Derouich, Salma Chachia, Sassi Boughizane, Hedi Khairi

Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Farhat Hached University Hospital, Sousse, Tunisia

Email: *onscherifb@gmail.com

How to cite this paper: Briki, R., Cherif, O., Derouich, M., Chachia, S., Boughizane, S. and Khairi, H. (2018) The Recto-Vesical Ligament: Myth or Reality? *Open Access Library Journal*, 5: e4911.

<https://doi.org/10.4236/oalib.1104911>

Received: September 17, 2018

Accepted: November 19, 2018

Published: November 22, 2018

Copyright © 2018 by authors and Open Access Library Inc.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Open Access

Abstract

The recto-vesical ligament is an abnormal peritoneal band that can be associated with uterine malformations by default fusion of Müller's ducts. It is a very rare entity. We report a case of laparoscopic surgery conducted on a 28-year-old patient in order to explore primary subfertility. We discover that the patient had two permeable vaginas, two distinct cervixes and two completely separate hemiuterus with two horns between which a wide peritoneal band attached to the bladder and back to the sigmoid: the ligament recto-vesical.

Subject Areas

Gynecology & Obstetrics, Internal Medicine, Women's Health

Keywords

Recto-Vesical Ligament, Bicornuate Uterus, Müller's Duct, Didelphys Uterus

1. Case Report

A 28-year-old had consulted for wish of pregnancy. It was a history of primary subfertility whose etiological record had concluded tubal origin. A laparoscopy of tubo-peritoneal evaluation was performed, and allowed the discovery of a double uterus: bicornuate bicollis uterus with permeable vagina. The patient had two permeable vaginas, two distinct cervixes and two completely separate hemiuterus with two horns between which a wide peritoneal band attached to the bladder and back to the sigmoid as shown in **Figure 1**: the ligament recto-vesical (**Figure 2**).

Furthermore, the exploration of the pelvic cavity showed the presence of peritoneal endometriosis superficial stains as shown in **Figure 3**.

2. Discussion

The recto-vesical ligament is an abnormal peritoneal band that can be associated

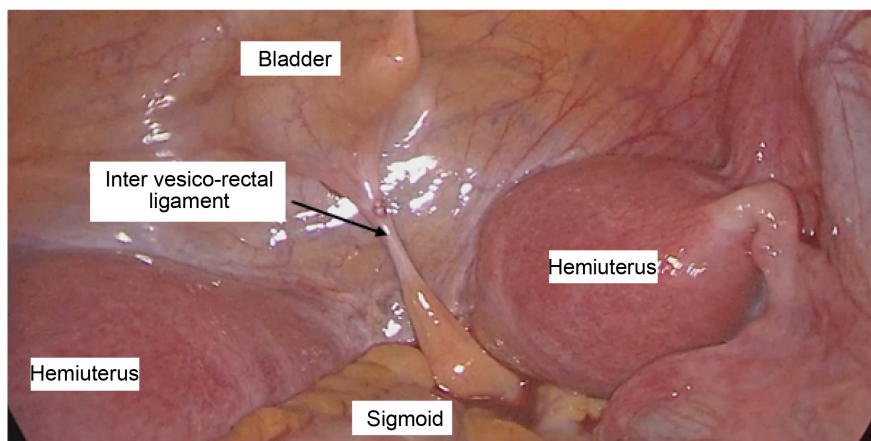


Figure 1. Laparoscopic view of the pelvis.

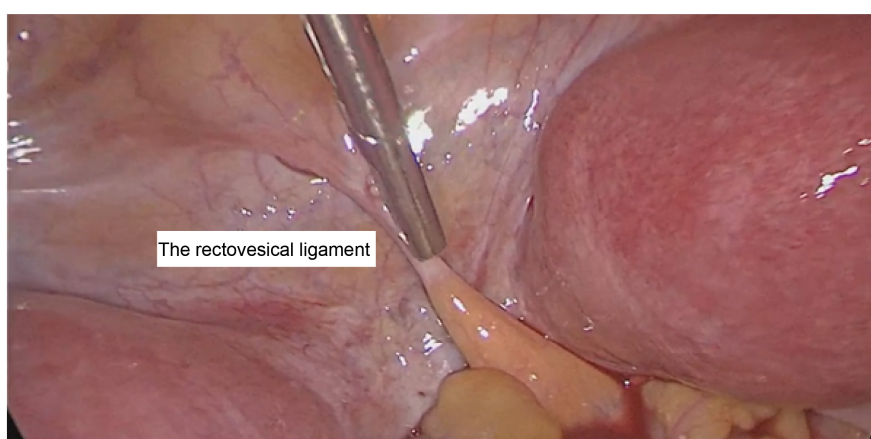


Figure 2. The recto-vesical ligament.

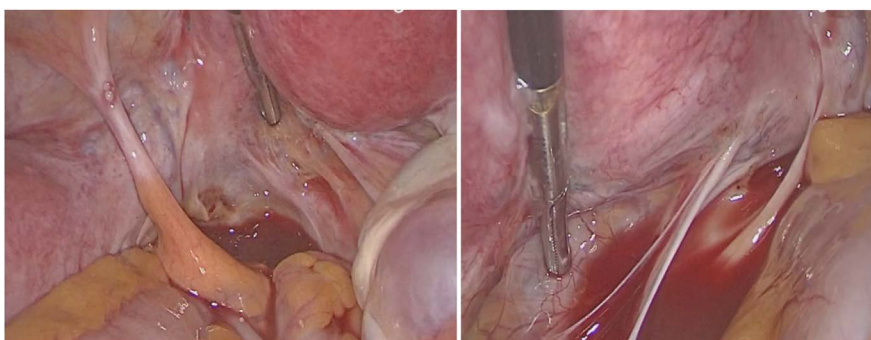


Figure 3. Signs of superficial peritoneal endometriosis.

with uterine malformations by default fusion of Müller's ducts. It is a fold of connective tissue extending from the rectum to the bladder, crossing the junction between the two horns of the uterus [1]. It is a very rare entity [2] [3] that associates with the didelphys uterus and that extends between the bladder forward and the anterior face of the recto-sigmoid back, thus separating the two hemi-matrices of the bicornuate uterus [2]. This anatomical variant is associated with the bicornuate bicollis uterus class III according to the American Fertility

Society/American Society for Reproductive Medicine (AFS/ASRM) classification [4]. In this case, the uterus may be a bicornuate bicollis permeable or with obstructed hemivagina [5]. Concomitant renal abnormalities are possible [3] [5].

3. Conclusion

The recto-vesical ligament is not only a consequence of the failure of the Müller's duct fusion, but its relation to the uterine malformation with or without vaginal and/or renal abnormality indicates a certain part of this structure in the early development of the urogenital system [3].

Conflicts of Interest

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Tow, S.H. (1960) The Double Uterus. A Review of Twenty-One Cases. *Singapore Medical Journal*, **1**, 167-171.
- [2] Jayi, S. and Abdelilah Melhouf, M. (2013) Inter-Vesico-Rectal Ligament Separating the Half-Matrices of a Unicervical Uterus Bicornis—About A Rare Case. *Pan African Medical Journal*, **15**, 27. <https://doi.org/10.11604/pamj.2013.15.27.2773>
- [3] Heinonen, P.K. (2013) Rectovesical Ligament and Fusion Defect of the Uterus with or without Obstructed Hemivagina and Ipsilateral Renal Agenesis. *European Journal of obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology*, **168**, 83-86. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2012.12.034>
- [4] The American Fertility Society (1988) The American Fertility Society Classifications of Adnexal Adhesions, Distal Tubal Occlusions, Tubal Occlusion Secondary to Tubal Ligation, Tubal Pregnancies, Mullerian Anomalies and Intrauterine Adhesions. *Fertility and Sterility*, **49**, 944-955. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0015-0282\(16\)59942-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0015-0282(16)59942-7)
- [5] Fedele, L., Motta, F., Frontino, G., Restelli, E. and Bianchi, S. (2013) Double Uterus with Obstructed Hemivagina and Ipsilateral Renal Agenesis: Pelvic Anatomic Variants in 87 Cases. *Human Reproduction*, **28**, 1580-1583. <https://doi.org/10.1093/humrep/det081>