

CASE REPORT

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# An intricate vagina penetrating injury with a 22 cm cassava stick in situ for 6 months: a case report

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## Abstract

**Background** Trauma remains one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality and a threat to attainment of sustainable development goal 11. Genital urinary trauma is reported in about 10% of patients presenting with trauma worldwide, and in about 6.6% of patients in Sub-Saharan Africa. If not careful enough, one may miss the foreign body in the vagina and this may be associated with morbidity, and although rare, mortality.

**Case presentation** We report a case of a 7-year-old Black Ugandan that had suffered vagina trauma 6 months prior to presentation at our facility and presented with chronic vagina pus discharge for 6 months. Prior examinations had failed to recognize the foreign body and so did the two abdominal pelvic ultrasound scans. During examination under anesthesia, we were able to locate the cassava stick that had caused penetrating vagina injury and we were able to dislodge it. It was a blunt cassava stick with length of 22 cm and diameter of 2 cm. Although it had gone through the peritoneal cavity, we did not do a laparotomy.

**Conclusion** This case emphasizes the need for a thorough vaginal exam including the need to do it under anesthesia with good lighting even when ultrasound scan findings are normal. It presents an opportunity for one to manage penetrating peritoneal injury without a laparotomy in highly selected cases. Gynecologists should be keen as well to rule out child molestation.

**Keywords** Vagina penetrating injury, Cassava stick, Case report

## Background

Trauma is a major cause of morbidity globally and the sixth leading cause of death at approximately 10% of all mortalities [1] and therefore a target of sustainable

development goal (SDG) 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable [2]. There is evidence of an increase in global morbidity and mortality due to trauma. James *et al.* reported increasing trends of trauma cases between 1990 and 2017 from 4,260,493 injury deaths to 4,484,722 deaths in 2017 [3].

Genital urinary tract (GUT) trauma is reported in about 10% of patients presenting with trauma [4]. In a study by Ayun *et al.*, after evaluating 21,904 patients presenting with urological emergencies, approximately 6.6% of cases were due to genitourinary trauma [5].

In Uganda, as in many Sub-Saharan African countries, the epidemiology of genitourinary trauma is not well established due to the lack of trauma registries. Most reports are extrapolated from hospital-based data and do

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OS: participated in management of the case. NJ: participated in case management and wrote the first initial version of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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#### Availability of data and materials

Data concerning this case can be requested from the corresponding author.

#### Declarations

##### Ethics approval and consent to participate

There was no need for ethics approval.

##### Consent for publication

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient's legal guardian for publication of this case report and any accompanying images. A copy of the written consent is available for review by the Editor-in-Chief of this journal.

##### Competing interests

We declare no competing interests.

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