

PAEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT GYNECOLOGY IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY: A STRATEGY FOR FEMALE GENDER EMPOWERMENT

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Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology in the Developing Country



- Pediatric and adolescent gynecology (PAG)
 - subspecialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - management of reproductive conditions from birth through young adulthood
 - reproductive endocrinopathies
 - disorders of sexual differentiation (DSD)
 - structural abnormalities of the reproductive tract
 - benign and malignant conditions of the genital tract

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- untreated or mismanaged → infertility
- inability to reproduce → dissolution of marriage and subsequent economic hardship
- early and accurate detection → prevent reproductive compromise

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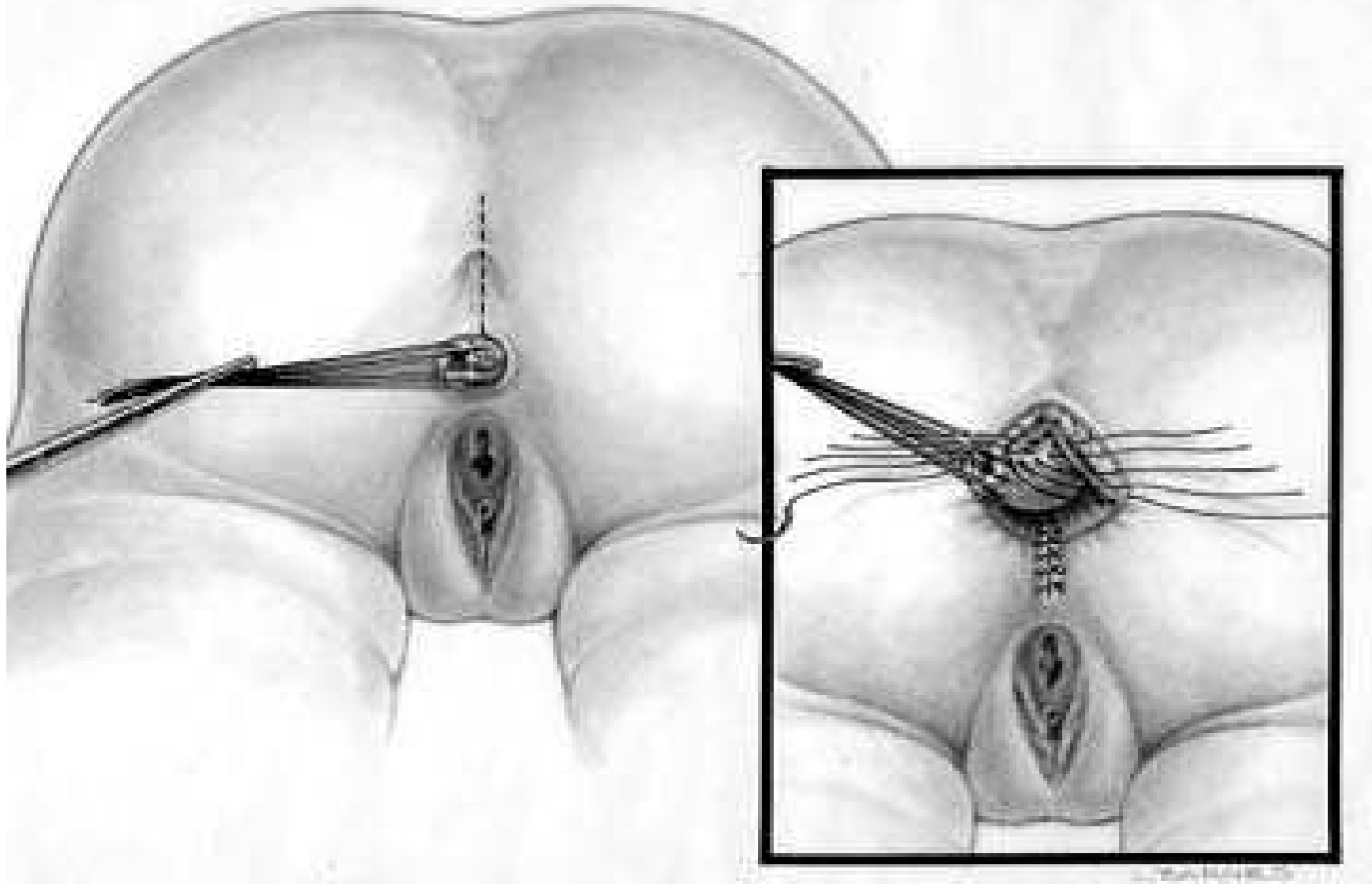
- Collaboration
 - Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, University of Ghana and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
 - introduce PAG into Ghana's healthcare system
 - establish Korle Bu Hospital as a regional referral base for collaborative management of complex cases
 - allow exchange of information between centers



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- Evaluated 14 patients
 - 11 - anorectal malformations involving the genital tract
 - 1 - congenital adrenal hyperplasia
 - 1 - ovotesticular DSD
 - 1 - mullerian/vaginal agenesis
- Management
 - 9 patients treated surgically
 - 2 managed medically
 - 3 scheduled for future surgical repair

Surgical Management

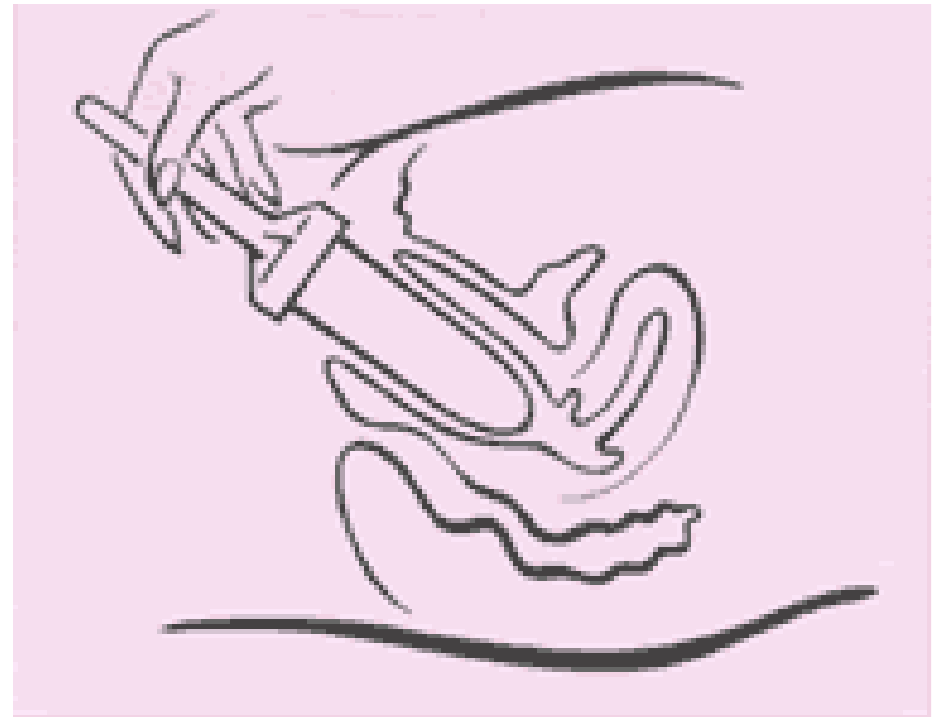


Medical Management

Steroid therapy/future genitoplasty



Vaginal dilation



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- surgical and medical management may allow these patients to engage in sexual activity and/or reproduce
- reproductive anomalies need not be a barrier to sexual intercourse, marriage, or reproduction

Conclusions



- Strategies for female gender empowerment:
 - educate health care providers on the management of PAG conditions
 - provide educational resources that dispel myths about fertility and reproduction
 - Use of surgical or medical means to enable women reach their full reproductive potential

DANKE SHÖN



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