A 69 year-old diagnosed patient with hypertension and ischaemic heart disease was admitted to hospital with a four day history of dysurea, vomiting, reduced urine output and altered behaviour for one day.

He was well until one month prior to the hospital admission when he developed an upper respiratory tract infection which lasted for three days and on the fourth day of the illness he became confused together with an unsteady gait. He was admitted to a district general hospital where he was infused with intravenous fluids to which there was a dramatic response. He was also found to be anaemic and the blood picture was normochromic, normocytic but a cause for the anaemia was not established. He was transfused with a pint of blood and discharged.

He was well for three weeks until he was admitted to the Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya with symptoms suggestive of a urinary tract infection. On examination he was afebrile, confused, pale and hypotensive. Reduced body hair was also noted. There were no focal neurological signs.

On admission the following differential diagnoses were considered; urinary tract infection, electrolyte imbalance secondary to vomiting and chronic subdural haemorrhage.

Treatment was commenced empirically with intravenous Co-amoxyclav. Investigations revealed the following: UFR - normal, Urine culture - sterile, Na⁺ - 125 mmol/L, K⁺ - 6 mmol/L, RBS - 3.3 mmol/L, Hb - 11 g/dL and Chest X-Ray - normal. Patient remained confused despite treatment. There was persistent hyperkalaemia with hyponatraemia and the blood pressure remained low which prompted us to investigate for a possible hypoadrenalism. He was started on intravenous dexamethasone and normal saline for which he showed a marked improvement. Subsequent investigations revealed a low ACTH concentration (< 10 pg/mL - mean 24 pg/mL) with a low 6.00 a.m. cortisol concentration (35.8 nmol/L - Normal range - 100 -600 nmol/L) confirming our tentative diagnosis of secondary adrenal insufficiency. CT scan of the brain revealed an intrasellar pituitary tumour. On further evaluation of the pituitary hormone profile a low concentration of LH (0.79 u/L - Normal range1-10 u/L) and a low normal concentration of GH (4.35 u/L - Normal range > 4u/L) was found. Rest of the anterior pituitary hormone concentrations remained within normal range. Since the tumour showed mass effect he was referred for neurosurgical management.

**Discussion**

Pituitary tumours are uncommon (1-2 /100,000 patients per year) [1]. They account for 10% - 15% of intracranial tumours and 75% of them secrete inappropriate levels of pituitary hormones [2]. Almost all the pituitary tumours are benign [1]. Typical presenting features include hormonal hypersecretion, visual field defects, headache, hypopituitarism, pituitary apoplexy, hydrocephalus, cranial nerve palsies and temporal lobe epilepsy.
This patient presented with anaemia and recurrent episodes of confusion which could have occurred due to adrenal insufficiency precipitated by trivial infection possibly a respiratory tract infection or urinary tract infection.

This case demonstrates the need to be vigilant about the possibility of rare conditions presenting as common clinical presentations like anaemia and confusion in the elderly.

Lippes loop in the retroperitoneal space

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Case Report

A 63 year-old mother of six children was found to be having a left renal stone on ultrasonography. The IVU showed a 2 cm stone in the left renal pelvis. In addition it revealed a Lippes loop in the region of the left sacroiliac joint, closely related to the left ureter (Figure 1). Twenty one years ago she has had a Lippes loop inserted (after her third child) which was never removed. Since then she had borne three more children but the IUD (Intrauterine device) was never looked for.

Left pyelolithotomy was performed via the transcostal approach and exploration of the retroperitoneal space revealed the Lippes loop located retroperitoneally closely related to the ureter. It was removed with ease (Figure 2).

Discussion

Transmigration if the IUDs from the uterine to the pelvic cavity is well known. Most of the migrated IUDs are located within the abdominal cavity and found in the conglomerated mesh bordered by intestines and omentum [1]. Some migrate into the bladder and appendix causing stones and appendicitis, respectively [2, 3]. Rarely IUDs have been found to be embedded in the parametrial tissue of the broad ligament [4]. However, extraperitoneal migration of Lippes loop into retroperitoneal tissue is very rare.

Figure 1 - IVU showing the Lippes loop

References