

Rejection of a Woman Suffering from Cryptophtalmos: Denial of Her Rights and Dignity

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Abstract: Cryptophtalmos is a rare congenital anomaly of eyelids characterized by consequent poor development of the eye that is hidden under the skin. People bearing such malformation look strange and may be victim of segregation. Their rights need to be protected by the law enforcement.

Keywords: Rejection, Cryptophtalmos, Denial, Rights, Dignity.

INTRODUCTION

Cryptophtalmos is a rare congenital anomaly. It is characterized by an uninterrupted continuity of the skin that extends from the forehead to the malar region. Cryptophtalmos is usually bilateral. Unilateral involvement is very rare and less are so far [1, 2].

Cryptophtalmos is found to be associated systemic anomalies called cryptophtalmos syndrome, Francois syndrome or Fraser syndrome. Complete cryptophtalmos involves complete passing of skin from forehead to cheek over malformed eye [3, 4].

CASE REPORT

We report a case of a 35 year-old- single housewife. Clinically, she had bilateral cryptophtalmos and her nose was large with depressed nasal bridge (Fig.1).

On both sides of face, eyelashes and eyebrow were absent. There was an extension of skin completely covering the right eye, with movement and palpable eyeball beneath the skin, and presence of orbital rim. Ophthalmic ultrasound revealed right microphthalmia. Since her birth she was never taken to Hospital, so it was her first time to be examined by a Doctor. Her

parents stated that she is a monster and a misfortune for their family.



Fig. 1: A 35 year-old- housewife with bilateral cryptophtalmos

DISCUSSION

Cryptophtalmos is a rare congenital anomaly of eyelids that involves consequent poor development of the eye that is hidden under the skin. Association with other defects, particularly genitourinary malformations and syndactyly has also been reported [5].

Complete cryptophtalmos occurs as a result of total failure of eyelid fold formation. The lids are

replaced by a layer of skin that extends from forehead to cheek with the absence or poor development of the eyebrow [2].

Cryptophthalmos may be unilateral or bilateral, isolated, or syndromic. Lens and posterior structures are sometimes intact, but the underlying cornea and anterior segment structures may not be present or malformed. Typically, no conjunctival fornices are present and microphthalmia may be present [6, 7].

There is no life-threatening in isolated cryptophthalmia contrary to the syndromic one that can encompass associated malformations. The main problem is the subsequent blindness and the cosmetic problem. In the African midst, and particularly in illiterate areas, people are scared while living with such persons, since some think they are monsters. Very often, those bearing such malformations which make them ugly are for sure segregated despite the international conventions that protect them.

In the provision of the article 5-2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities [8], "States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of disability and guarantee to persons with disabilities equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds".

In spite of the deformity of this woman, she deserves to be respected since she has the same dignity as others people. The Universal declaration of human rights states clearly in his article 1 [9]: "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights..."

People with disability are vulnerable, particularly the females one; for this reason, States parties to conventions ought to protect them by the law enforcement. In the terms of the article 6 -1 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities [8], States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and

equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

CONCLUSION

Cryptophthalmos is a congenital malformation which renders people peculiar; nevertheless, they have the same rights and dignity as others. Their rights need to be protected via sensitization and law enforcement.

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