HYSTEROSCOPIC RESECTION OF INTRA-UTERINE SEPTUM

THESIS

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TO ...

MY SONS

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CONTENTS

P	age'
Introduction	l
Aim of the work	3
Review of Literature	
Embryological development	4
Congenital anomalies of mullerian duct	8
Hysteroscopy:	11
History and development of hysteroscopy	11
Types of hysteroscopy	15
Distension media for hysteroscopy	17
Anaesthesia for hysteroscopy	29
Indications for hysteroscopy	30
Complications of hysteroscopy	32
Contraindications for hysteroscopy	37
Septate uterus:	38
Incidence of the septate uterus	38
The clinical picture of septate uterus	40
Diagnosis of septate uterus	42
Hysterosalpingography	44
Laparoscopy	47
Diagnostic hysteroscopy for septate uterus	48
Operative hysteroscopy for correction of septate uterus	51

Materials and Methods	54
Results	62
Discussion	70
Summary and Conlusion	77
References	79
Arabic Summary	

INTRODUCTION

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Septate uterus is associated with a high incidence of reproductive failure and obstetrical complications, ranging from first and second trimester habitual (reptetive) abortions, premature delivery, abnormal fetal presentation, intrauterine growth retardation, and infertility. About 15 to 25 per cent of spontanous abortions are caused by mullerian fusion defects and almost all are associated with uterine septa. (Hassiakos and Zourlas, 1990).

The cause may involve implantation of an embryo onto an avascular septum that is unable to support adaquate growth (De Cherney, 1986).

Although, hysterosalpingography seems of great value in diagnosing uterine septum, hysteroscopy afford more precise informations concerning the degree of fundal anomaly (Sorensen, 1987).

Hysteroscopic resection of a uterine septum almost has replaced the traditional transabdominal approach. Advantages over the former are that it can be performed on an outpatient basis, requires minimal recovery time before allowing pregnancy, and does not commit the patient to a cesarean section (Edstrom, 1979), (Valle, and Sciarra, 1986) and (Fayez, 1986).

The gestational outcome of hysteroscopic resection of uterine septa, equal or exceeds that achieved by transabdominal metroplasty (*Perino et al.*, 1987).

AIM OF THE WORK

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The purpose of this work is to evaluate the accuracy of anatomical correction of the uterine septa using the knife diathermy via hysteroscopic control.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

EMBRYOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MULLERIAN DUCT

In the sixth week of development, the embryo has two pairs of genital ducts:

The mesonephric or Wollfian ducts, extending from the mesonephros to cloaca, and the paramesonephric or Mullerian ducts, which run parallel to the wollfian ducts. (Jan Langman, 1977).

The Mullerian duct arises as a longitudinal invagination of the coelomic epithelium on the anterolateral surface of the urogenital ridge. Cranially, the duct opens in the coelomic cavity with a funel-like structure. Caudally, it runs first lateral to the mesonephric duct but then crosses it ventrally to grow in caudomedial direction.

The mullerian duct will be further divided into three segments a cranial longtidunial segment, an intermediate transverse part and caudal longtidunal part (Hamilton et al., 1978).

The fallopian tubes will be formed on each side from the cranial longitudinal portion while the coelomic opening develops into the future fimbria. The caudal longitudinal segments fuse together and form the cervix uteri, while the intermediate unfused portions expand and get incorporated into the uterus forming the fundal part of the organ (Williams and Smith, 1976).

Fusion and incorporation may be incomplete resulting in different forms of congenital anomalies (Williams and Smith, 1976).

The caudal tip of the combined ducts projects into the posterior wall of the urogential sinus, where it causes a small swelling, the paramesonephric or Mullerian tubercle (Sadler, 1985).

The Mullerian duct comes to full development, forming the oviducts and the uterus, while the wolffian duct disappears except for a few remnenant (Jan Langman, 1977).

The fused paramesonepheric ducts are surrounded by a layer of mesenchyme, with time, this mesenchyme forms the muscular coat of the uterus, the myometrium and its peritoneal covering, the peritonium (Sadler, 1985).