Abstract

BACKGROUND:
Only 16 cases of membranous dysmenorrhea have been described in literature to our best knowledge. Membranous dysmenorrhea is an expulsion of fragments of endometrium retaining the shape of the uterus. It was described in the literature in association with a chronic fatigue syndrome and high level of progesterone, but the pathophysiology remains unknown. Most of the patients with dysmenorrhea membranacea have been under hormonal therapy although it was also described for patients that were not exposed to hormonal therapy. The purpose of this work is to describe one case with a remarkable size of endometrial tissue that we have observed in our department.

CASE:
A 31-year-old nullipara with regular menstrual cycles showed a membranous dysmenorrhea after taking the contraceptive Nuvaring (11,7 mg of etonogestrel and 2,7 mg of etinilestradiolo, Organon Italia S.p.A.) for 2 months as a treatment for endometrios cyst. Expulsion of endometrial fragments was associated with a cramping pain in low abdomen and vaginal bleeding. The symptoms disappeared after expulsion of endometrium. Macroscopically the fragment of tissue was huge and compact, 7X5X1 cm of dimension, coloured beige and red. Histological evaluation revealed stromal decidualization.

Conclusion:
This case permits to reflect about the possibility of occurrence of dysmenorrhea membranacea during the hormonal therapy. In particular it must be payed attention when the patients report painful symptoms and expulsion of tissue that can not be attributed to the blood and clot. In such a case it is suggested to send the expelled tissue to histological examination.