

Image Misattribution on the Hayman Technique: Correction Published After 17 Years

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Dear Editor,

I recently searched medical databases for the treatment of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) in order to update the second edition of the textbook on the issue, *Obstetric Operations*, for which I am Editor-in-Chief. In addition to the existing articles, I also found numerous novel methods for compression hemostatic procedures.

Among these, I came across a paper categorized as Commentaries, by Ghezzi et al., published in *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* in 2007, describing the Hayman technique as a simple method in the management of PPH (1). The authors describe eleven cases of massive PPH in which Hayman's method was successfully applied, with hysterectomy performed in one case. They therefore recommended this technique as a simple method for the treatment of PPH. Furthermore, Figure 1A on page 363 provides a schematic presentation of placing Hayman sutures, while the black-and-white Figure 1B shows the posterior uterine wall with the sutures placed *in situ*.

One year earlier, in 2006, together with my team, I published the first description of the successfully placed B-Lynch compression suture in Croatia, with the respective literature review (2). In that article, the original intraoperative color figure (with the patient's consent) is presented as Figure 1 on page 309, representing the posterior uterine wall with the sutures as part of the B-Lynch procedure and with my fingers holding the uterus on both sides.

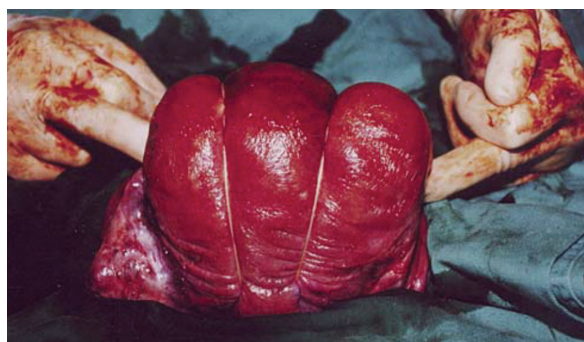


Figure 1. Posterior views of the uterus after application of the B-Lynch brace suture. From: Habek et al. *Successful B-Lynch compression suture in the management of massive postpartum hemorrhage: case reports and review.* Arch Gynecol Obstet 2006;273:307-9.

The same original photograph was published a year later in BJOG in the abovementioned article by Ghezzi et al. as a representation of the Hayman technique, now as a black-and-white photograph, laterally cropped but readily comparable with the original photograph (1).

Moreover, their paper describes the Hayman method; however, looking at the photograph, it is not the Hayman method but the B-Lynch method. Namely, Hayman's double or multiple vertical compression sutures (longitudinal sutures) are placed through-and-through the lower uterine segment with a closed hysterotomy, and the suture can be fixed to the uterine fundus to avoid slippage. In contrast, B-Lynch's single compression sutures are placed below the hysterotomy, starting over the fundus on the posterior wall, where they are placed transversely at the level of the isthmus and returning over the fundus on the anterior wall below the hysterotomy, where they are firmly tightened. They cite it as their own presentation of the method, along with the preceding graphic presentation, without acknowledging the source from which it was taken. Accordingly, there are two issues: professional-scientific and ethical-deontological, as the photograph does not present the respective operative method nor is it the authors' original photograph, because the copyright holders are the publishing house and I, as the corresponding author and operator.

Seeing the problem, I wrote a letter to the editor of the renowned journal BJOG, who then contacted the authors and sent another original image of their own, considering the publication of my image in their 2007 paper to be a mistake. The editorial board of the journal BJOG published a correction in the April issue of this year, in which they state

the acknowledgment of the group of authors and, in addition to our original reference, now include the original image of the B-Lynch technique by Ghezzi et al. (3).

However, I am extremely pleased that the editorial board of BJOG asked for a statement from the authors and ethically accepted their response and correction, which they published 17 years later. The above confirms that even in the world of science, omissions are possible, and it is not possible to control all forms of correspondence and the possible publication of other people's photographs. This case proves that one's own academic and scientific integrity is necessary because it is proven to be timeless and unlimited. It is evident that in the world of scientific journalism, it is impossible to control all the components and images sent to journals when publishing papers, and therefore, the statement on ethics and patient consent is the most important factor that the author(s) guarantee as a necessary deontological factor during the publication process.

Declarations

Conflict of interest. None

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