

Author:

Sharifah Salwa binti Nordin, Dr Mohd Hatif Bin Kamil and Dr Mohd Zaim Bin Abdullah Zawawi, Emergency Department, Sarawak General Hospital, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

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## **Title: Pseudo Stillbirth in a Plastic Bag: Emergency Management of a Preterm Home Birth in Sarawak**

Background: The management of preterm deliveries outside of healthcare facilities poses unique challenges in emergency medicine. This case report details a rare instance of a pseudo stillbirth and emphasizes the importance of vigilant triage and the need for comprehensive support for single mothers in rural areas.

Case Presentation: A 25-year-old Chinese single mother from Sarawak presented to our emergency department carrying a newborn and placenta in a grocery plastic bag. She reported delivering the baby at home at 28 weeks of gestation and believed the infant to be stillborn. Initial triage recorded the birth as occurring before arrival, with the newborn presumed deceased. However, upon further examination, the neonate, weighing 1.1 kg, was found to be breathing. Immediate neonatal resuscitation was performed using ambu-bagging. The newborn was subsequently transferred to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The mother was found to have a labial tear, which was promptly treated.

Discussion: This case highlights the critical need for emergency triage personnel to maintain a high index of suspicion in cases of home births, especially when presented with ambiguous or incomplete information. Thorough examination and prompt resuscitation efforts are essential in such situations. Furthermore, the case underscores the significant psychological and social challenges faced by single mothers, particularly in remote regions like Sarawak. Providing comprehensive social support is crucial to ensure the health and well-being of both mother and child.

Conclusion: The presented case of pseudo stillbirth underscores the necessity for meticulous triage procedures and the importance of immediate, effective neonatal resuscitation. It also calls for the development of robust support systems for single mothers in rural areas to address their unique needs. Training emergency healthcare workers to recognize and respond to such complex cases is vital for improving outcomes

Keywords: Pseudo stillbirth, preterm birth, neonatal resuscitation

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