pregnancy in general and due to the increasing use of assisted conception techniques.2 They are clinically not different from the more common unilateral presentations and, during an operation one side may easily be overlooked due to difference in size of tubal distension. Awareness, clinical vigilance and meticulous inspection of both adnexa at laparoscopy or laparotomy are therefore required so as not to miss the diagnosis.² Mock et a^B has described the successful management of spontaneous bilateral tubal pregnancy bv ultrasound-guided in situ injection of MTX 1 mg/kg into each fallopian tube, although systemic injection of 1 mg/m², the recommended dose for unilateral ectopic pregnancy usually fails. Laparoscopy remains the cornerstone of diagnosis and treatment in the majority of women with tubal pregnancy. Conservative surgery, laparoscopic bilateral tubal salpingostomy without suturing the tubal incisions are recommended by many authors as it provide better long-term results in terms of tubal patency and adhesion prevention.4

Our case was initially misdiagnosed as intrauterine pregnancy, and a diagnosis of ruptured right tubal pregnancy was made only after she was admitted with acute abdominal pain. Careful inspection at surgery revealed a smaller unruptured left tubal pregnancy as reported by De Graaf et al.² We report this case to demonstrate the need for careful ultrasonographic assessment of both fallopian tubes in high-risk cases before surgery and the importance of thorough evaluation of the whole pelvis during surgery for bilateral ectopic pregnancy.

Received 23rd March 2004. Accepted for publication in final form 11th August 2004.

From the Department of Obstetrics and Gruecology, Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Sultanate of Oman, Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. Mariam Mathew, Senior Registrar, Department of Obstetrics and Gruecology, PO Box 35, PC 123, Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman, Tel. +968 513951, Fax, +968 513951. E-mail: mathewg@ omantel.net.m

References

- Stewart HL. Bilateral ectopic pregnancy. West J Surg Obstet Gynecol 1950; 58: 648-656.
- De Graaf FL, Demetroulis C. Bilateral tubal ectopic pregnancy: diagnostic pitfalls. Br J Clin Pract 1997; 51: 56-58.
- Mock P, Olivenes F, Doumerc S, Frydman R, Fernandez H, Simultaneous bilateral tubal pregnancy after intracytoplasmic sperm injection treated by conservative medical treatment. Interest of sonographic follow-up. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol* 2001; 94: 155-157.
- Sommer EM, Reisenberger K, Bogner G, Nagele F. Laparoscopic management of an unrecognised spontaneous bilateral tubal pregnancy. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand* 2002; 81: 366-368.

Voluntary seatbelt usage. Did we reach there yet?

Dakheel A. Al-Dakheel, MBBS, Abdallah I. Al-Mohimeed, MBBS, Devdas S. Shriyan, MBBS, MS, Mir Sadat-Ali, MS, FRCS.

S ome of these guys drive like maniacs trying to out do one another, so make sure that you have all foreign visitors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).¹ Not surprisingly, KSA loses over 21 billion Saudi Riyals annually due to sharp increase in road traffic accidents.² Road traffic accidents are a major cause of morbidity and mortality among young Saudis and plenty of studies in the Kingdom stand witness to this unfortunate truth.^{3,4}

Seatbelts were first introduced in 1920 in the United States of America (USA), to keep the occupants in the cars from bumpy rides. By 1970, it was realized that seatbelt restraints protected the driver and the occupants from the severity of injuries. Legislation was then passed for mandatory use. The presence of cars' seatbelt does not mean that the occupants will use it. Seatbelt usage exceeds over 90% in some European countries and in USA up to 86%.⁵ The western countries have reached this compliance due to legislation, health education and fines for non users. The objective of this study was to carry out an unobtrusive observation on seatbelt use at 6 different centers in Dhahran and Al-Khobar. KSA and to assess the compliance of seatbelt usage by people who are in the drivers seat at various locations. Six hundred drivers were unobtrusively observed by the investigators. The locations were: entry and exit gate of Saudi Aramco, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM). Dhahran, first traffic light on entry into Al-Khobar, the end of Dammam-Al-Khobar highway, Al-Khobar Corniche, entry and exit gate of King Fahd Hospital of the University (KFHU) and entry of Al-Rashed Mall in Al-Khobar. The study was made 3 times weekly, each time, the driver of the third car at the location is the one observed, until the required number was achieved. The percentage of seatbelt users differed at different locations. The voluntary usage of seatbelts ranged from 17-100% with a mean of 56.8%. At Saudi Aramco, the seatbelt usage was 100% while 98% in KFUPM. At these 2 locations the prevalence was highest due to regular checks and penalties levied by the organizations. At other locations the mean usage was 35.75% (range 17-49%) with no checkpoints nor penalties if caught in these 2 locations. Table 1 gives the voluntary usage of seatbelts and their

Table 1	-	Voluntary	usage of	seatbelts	(%).
---------	---	-----------	----------	-----------	------

Site	Number of drivers observed	Drivers using seatbelts	
Saudi Aramco	100	100	
KFUPM	100	98	
Al-Khobar City	100	49	
Al-Khobar Corniche	100	46	
KFHU	100	31	
Al-Rashed Mall	100	17	

KFUPM - King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran. KFHU - King Fahd Hospital of the University, Al-Khobar.

percentages. Every 14 seconds someone is injured in a motor vehicle accident and every 12 minutes someone is killed. Seatbelts are the most effective means of reducing serious injuries and deaths on roads and in hospitals.6 Seatbelts reduced the total number of injuries by 34%, major injuries by 57%, and minor injuries by 20% and no deaths occurred among the belted group. As early as 1986, Mufti7 raised the issues of medico legal aspects of seatbelt legislation after the findings that suggested that in Rivadh region only 6.9% of the population used seatbelts. Shawan et al8 in the Eastern Province found that voluntary usage of seatbelts was only 19.4% in males and 8% in females. At present seatbelt use is mandated by Royal Decree before the new millennium but unfortunately, it appears that the seatbelt usage did not increase nor the severity of injuries due to road traffic accidents decrease. Unobtrusive survey is believed to be one of the better ways to carry out surveys, where unbiased and truthful assessment is needed. The practice of seatbelt usage in organizations like Saudi Aramco and KFUPM of over 98% shows that drivers are disciplined and do not want to be penalized, hence, they routinely use seatbelt restraints as compared to drivers on the streets who flout the mandatory use of seatbelts. People at large should be reminded repeatedly of the benefits of using seatbelts in not only preventing deaths but also reducing severity of injuries to themselves and saving costs from hospital acute care and use the same funds

elsewhere for better purposes (such as, improvements of healthcare in communities and the country at large). The question still lingers in the minds of the healthcare professionals that have we carried out enough to promote voluntary use of seatbelts? The answer to this is not satisfactory enough. We are at present not even close to where we should be in making our drivers use seatbelts.

In conclusion, this sample survey indicates that the average use of seatbelts in the east coast of KSA is very low. A multi-modality effort is required to reach a compliance of seatbelt usage to reach international levels. We believe that the following ways could increase the use of seatbelts among the population: 1) Children at school and colleges should be systematically approach and reminded repeatedly on the benefits of seatbelt use. 2). Routine and repeated media (print, radio and television) advertisements to use seatbelt restraints. 3) Hoardings at important and busy intersections on the benefit of seatbelt usage. 4) Repeated road campaigns should be carried out, not only by police personnel but also physicians.

Received 7th June 2004. Accepted for publication in final form 24th August 2004.

From the Department Orthopedic Surgery, King Fahd Hospital of the University, Al-Khobar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Address correspondence and reprint requests to Prof. Mir Sadat-Ali, King Fahd University Hospital of the University, PO Box 40071, Al-Khobar 31952, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Tel.+305848281. Fax. +966 (3) 8971013. E-mail: drsada@hotmail.com

References

- Travel Advisory to Saudi Arabia. (cited 2002). Available from: URL: http://www.virtualtourist.com
- Fareed S. Saudi Road crashes killed 5,000 last year. Gulf News [cited 2002 Decembe 26]. Available from URL: http://www.gulf-news.com/AboutUs/default.asp
- Marwah S, Al-Habdan I, Sankaran-Kutty M, Parashar S. Road Traffic accidents admissions in a University hospital in Saudi Arabia (A Pilot Study). *Saudi Med J* 1990; 11: 389-391.
- Bener A, Jadaan KS. A perspective on road fatalities in Saudi Arabia. Accid Anal Prev 1992; 24: 143-148.
- Gantz T, Henkle G. Seatbelts: Current Issues. (cited October 2002). Available from: URL: http:// www.preventioninstitute.org/traffic_seatbelt.html
- Hillary FG, Schatz P, Moelter ST, Lowry JB, Ricker JH, Chute DL. Motor vehicle collision factors influence severity and type of TBI. *Brain Inj* 2002; 16: 729-741.
- Mufti MH. Medico-legal aspects of seat belt legislation in Saudi Arabia. Saudi Med J 1986; 7: 84-90.
- Shawan S, Al-Arfaj A, Hegazi M, Al-Habdan I, Wosornu L. Voluntary usage of seatbelts in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia. *Saudi Med J* 1992; 13: 25-28.