



BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF PAKISTAN MEDICAL COMMISSION

In the matter of

PF.8-1929/2021-DC/PMC

Maqbool Ahmad Vs. Dr. Tasneem Begum

Mr. Muhammad Ali Raza	Chairman
Dr. Anis-ur- Rehman	Member
Dr. Asif Loya	Member

Present:

Mr. Maqbool Ahmad	Complainant
Dr. Tasneem Begum (11793-P)	Respondent
Brig (R) Prof. Dr. Ambreen Anwar	Expert (Gynecologist)
Hearing dated	03.06.2022

I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. The instant Complaint was lodged by Mr. Maqbool Ahmad (hereinafter referred to as the "Complainant) against Dr. Tasneem Begum (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent) on 19.11.2020 alleging negligence and malpractice. The Complainant submitted that:
 - a. his sister-in-law (patient) visited Respondent Dr. Tasneem Begum at Ali Ultrasound and Gastroscopy Clinic, Narowal, for her delivery case on 20.06.2020. The delivery was conducted by a nurse named Riffat. The patient was not feeling well but she was discharged at 10pm.

- b. The Complainant further submitted that the patient visited the Respondent doctor post-delivery who told that there was nothing to worry and the patient will be alright.
- c. Later on, the patient was referred to Lahore by another doctor on 01.07.2020. Patient was admitted at Jinnah Hospital, Lahore but she could not survive and expired on 03.07.2020.

II. SHOW CAUSE NOTICE TO RESPONDENT

2. In view of allegations levelled in the Complaint, Notice dated 17.08.2021 was issued to the Respondent doctor Tasneem Begum in the following terms:
 4. **WHEREAS**, in terms of Complaint, it has been alleged that, Complainant brought his sister in law (Mst. Naseem, 35years) to Ali Ultrasound & Gastroscopy Clinic, Kacheri Road, Narowal on 20th June, 2020 for purpose of delivery which was carried out by staff nurse namely Mst. Riffat under your supervision at your clinic and not by a Gynecologist. Birth certificate of the newly born baby was issued by you on 20.06.2020 with your stamp and signature. It has been further alleged that the condition of the patient was not stable at the time of discharge; and
 5. **WHEREAS**, the patient faced severe complication for which the patient's family contacted your clinic multiple times. Upon not getting proper treatment from your clinic the patient visited Dr. Muhammad Idrees (Narowal) who after checkup referred the patient to Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore, being severely complicated case. Due to unavailability of bed in the concerned specialty the patient was onward referred to Jinnah Hospital, Lahore dated 02.07.2020 and the patient passed away on 03.07.2020; and
 6. **WHEREAS**, in terms of the facts mentioned in the Complaint, it is failure on your part to fulfill your professional responsibilities towards your patient. Such conduct is a breach of code of ethics amounts to professional negligence/misconduct.

III. REPLY OF RESPONDENT DR. TASNEEM BEGUM

3. In response to Show Cause Notice dated 17.08.2021, Respondent Dr. Tasneem Begum submitted her reply on 17.09.2021, wherein she stated that:
 - i. *I have wide experience in gynecological procedures. We admit normal cases only at the clinic and complicated cases are referred to other hospital.*

- ii. *Patient w/o Kbalid was admitted to our clinic at 02:00 pm on 20.06.2020 and consent was signed by her husband. The patient was in labor pains and delivered a male healthy baby at about 05:30 pm on 20.06.2020. Three staff members were in the room Miss. Anum, Riffat and Khalida (qualified in this field). Patient was transfused blood. Both baby and mother were stable, there was no PV Bleeding and the vital signs were within normal range so she was discharged at 07:45 pm on 20.06.2020.*
- iii. *On 21.06.2020 at 09:00 am, patient's attendant called me and complained of PV bleeding. I advised to bring the patient immediately but they came at 12:30 pm. Patient was examined and some clots were removed with sterilized instruments. Uterine cavity was examined and explored with sponge forceps but nothing came out. USG was performed and endometrial lining was found clear. No free fluid in the pelvis or abdomen was observed. USG report and birth certificate were given to the patient's attendant. The patient was transfused blood, given antibiotic (inj. Oxidil) injection trans-amine and syntocinon. After making sure that patient is stable with no bleeding, she was prescribed medicines and discharged at 7:30 pm on 21.06.2020. She left the hospital walking on her feet comfortably.*
- iv. *There was no follow-up or contact from the patient or attendant. On 26.06.2020 at 01:00 pm a phone call was received from the attendant and it was informed that patient has anorexia and weakness. When asked by us about any fever or PV bleeding, it was told that there were no such complaints. We advised the attendant to bring the patient to the clinic at 05:30 pm the same day to focus on any medical condition but the patient never visited us.*
- v. *After 21.06.2020, patient probably visited other clinics and did not report to this clinic and died after days later. During this period, we have no information about patient's health regarding gynecological or non-gynecological issues. At her last visit patient was discharged in satisfactory condition. Her antenatal care was not from this hospital. She once came for USG examination only.*

IV. REJOINER

4. The reply submitted by the Respondent doctor was forwarded to the Complainant on 04.10.2021 for rejoinder. The Complainant submitted his rejoinder on 12.10.2021 wherein he reiterated his earlier stance and expressed his dissatisfaction with the response submitted by the Respondent doctor.

V. HEARING

5. After completion of codal formalities the matter was fixed for hearing before the Disciplinary Committee on 03.06.2022. Notices dated 16.05.2022 were issued to the Complainant and Respondent Dr. Tasneem Begum directing them to appear before the Disciplinary Committee on 03.06.2022.

6. On the date of hearing the Complainant as well as the Respondent doctor appeared before the Disciplinary Committee.
7. The Committee asked the Respondent doctor about brief facts of the case to which she stated that the patient visited Ali Ultrasound & Gastroscopy Clinic on 20.06.2020 at 02:00 pm for the purpose of delivery (G-5). A male baby was delivered at 05:30 pm and around 08:00 pm on the same day the patient was discharged. The next day on 21.06.2020 morning at 09:00 am she received a call from the Complainant that the patient had PV bleeding, upon which she asked to bring the patient immediately. The patient reached the clinic at around 12:00 pm. Upon receiving, the patient walked into the clinic. The Respondent further stated that she shifted the patient to labor room and examined her, upon examination uterus was contracted and there were no findings of bleeding. The patient was then shifted to USG room. Ultrasound showed clear endometrial line. One unit of blood was transfused to the patient. Ringer and antibiotics were also administered, and patient was sent home.
8. The Respondent doctor further stated that on 26.06.2020, she again received a call from the Complainant stating that the patient is experiencing loss of appetite. Upon inquiring from Complainant there was no complaint of bleeding or fever but only loss of appetite. The Complainant was asked to visit the hospital however, they didn't visit nor contacted. On 29.06.2020, a lady (relative to the patient) visited to get another birth certificate of the baby as they had lost the previous one issued. Upon inquiring about the health of the patient, the lady told that they took her to another doctor afterwards. The Respondent further added that after a few days she received a threatening call from the Complainant alleging her to be responsible for the death of their patient.
9. The Committee asked the Complainant as to why his brother (husband of patient) didn't pursue/ lodge the complaint being eye witness of the whole incident. The Complainant stated that he is serving in armed forces and has near access to offices in Rawalpindi / Islamabad, whereas his brother is also serving in forces and is posted in Quetta and it is impossible for him to pursue the case.

10. The Complainant further stated that the patient visited Dr. Muhammad Idrees (Narowal) who after checkup referred her to Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore. Due to unavailability of bed the patient was onward referred to Jinnah Hospital, Lahore on 02.07.2020. The Complainant added that the patient was admitted in Jinnah hospital in the morning of 02.07.2020 and he reached Jinnah hospital at around 03:00 pm on the same day where he found the patient on ventilator. The Complainant further stated that doctor on duty asked him to bring some tablets from pharmacy which once received the doctor crushed four of them and administered to the patient at once through a pipe.
11. The Committee asked the Complainant if the doctor at Jinnah hospital told him about the disease of the patient or the reason these tablets were given for. The Complainant responded that he was told that it is the treatment for the damage caused during gynae procedure.
12. The Committee asked the Complainant about the reason for which the patient was taken to Jinnah hospital. He stated that the patient lost appetite, did not talk to anyone and further she always insisted to take rest.
13. The Committee asked the Complainant if the doctors at Jinnah hospital guide them for autopsy or if the attendants requested for the same, to which he responded that the hospital did not give the option of autopsy nor did they opt for the same.

VI. EXPERT OPINION BY BRIG (R) PROF. DR. AMBREEN ANWAR

14. Brig (R) Prof. Dr. Ambreen Anwar (Gynecologist) was appointed as an Expert to assist the Disciplinary Committee. The salient points of the Expert opinion are as under:
 1. "Delivery was uneventful. However, the post-natal events are confusing. There is no history of abnormal bleeding per vaginam or fever.
 2. The narrative by the attendants point towards 'Postpartum Depression' in the wake of events, but this diagnosis does not lead to physical morbidity to an extent that leads to mortality.

3. Postmortem was not performed. No clear diagnosis of her condition could be established for her death.
4. However, no evidence of clinical negligence can be found in events related to the procedure of delivery and immediate postpartum period.”

VII. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

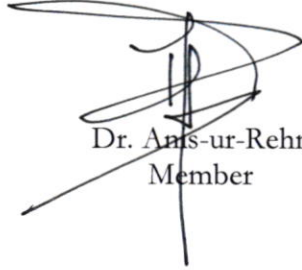
15. After perusal of the record and statements of the parties the Disciplinary Committee observes that patient namely Nasreen, 32 years of age, G5 P4 A0, un-booked patient visited Respondent Dr. Tasneem Begum at Ali Ultrasound and Gastroscopy Clinic, Narowal, with labor pains on 20.06.2020 at around 02:00 pm. She had previous 1 C-section and 3 SVDs (Spontaneous vaginal delivery). Her routine investigations were performed and she was admitted for delivery. After obtaining high risk consent, the normal vaginal delivery was conducted and a male alive baby was delivered at 05:30 pm and the patient was discharged on the same day at 07:45 pm in a stable condition.
16. On 21.06.2020 morning at 09:00 am the Complainant called the Respondent stating that the patient had bleeding, upon which the Respondent asked to bring the patient to clinic. The patient reached the clinic of Respondent doctor at 12:30 pm. The Respondent shifted the patient to labor room and examined her, upon examination uterus was contracted and there were no findings of bleeding. The patient was then shifted to USG room and ultrasound showed clear endometrial line.
17. On the same day the Respondent doctor advised transfusion of one pint of blood. The investigations performed before blood transfusion are; Blood group AB+ve, HBsAg -ve, Anti HIV -ve, Anti HCV -ve, Malarial parasite -ve, VDRL non-reactive. After blood transfusion and stabilizing the patient she was sent home. After 21.06.2020, the patient did not visit the Respondent doctor.
18. On 01.07.2020, the patient visited Dr. Idress who referred her to Nephrologist at Sheikh Zaid hospital with notes of “Acute Renal Failure, post-partum history of PPH, complains of dyspnea,

pulse 104, Blood pressure 160/100 and clear chest. Blood CP shows HB 6.3%, WBCs 13800 cmm. The patient was taken to Sheikh Zayed Hospital, Lahore but due to unavailability of bed the patient was onward referred to Jinnah Hospital, Lahore.

19. On 02.07.2020 she was admitted at Jinnah Hospital, Lahore in critical condition and was shifted on ventilator on the same day, with preliminary diagnosis of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) and sepsis. As per ultrasound abdomen performed at Jinnah Hospital, Lahore on 02.07.2020 *“kidneys were normal in size and texture, no stones / hydro-nephrosis, urinary bladder minimally filled with foley’s in situ. Uterus normal size antverted, hypoechoic area of 2 cm seen most likely RPOC’s. B/L adere:xa unremarkable. No fluid cell de sac.”*
20. The patient died on 03.07.2020 at 01:45 am. The notes on Death Certificate include *“Diagnosis – AKI / Sepsis, Treatment – Mechanical Ventilation along with supportive treatment and cause of death– cardiopulmonary arrest”*.
21. The Committee has noted that the main assertion of the Complainant was that the patient died due to excessive bleeding and the tablets administered at Jinnah Hospital were to stop the said bleeding. The Expert clarified that the tablets given are to stop bleeding due to stomach ulcers and lately it has also been used to stop bleeding due to gynae procedures. However, in this case there is no history of bleeding for several days, furthermore, the ultrasound report of Jinnah Hospital is not suggestive of any abnormal findings.
22. The Expert gynecologist who was appointed to assist the Disciplinary Committee opined that no evidence of clinical negligence can be found in events related to the procedure of delivery and immediate postpartum period. Relevant portion of the Expert opinion is reproduced hereunder:
 1. *“Delivery was uneventful. However, the post-natal events are confusing. There is no history of abnormal bleeding per vaginum or fever.*
 2. *The narrative by the attendants point towards ‘Postpartum Depression’ in the wake of events, but this diagnosis does not lead to physical morbidity to an extent that leads to mortality.*
 3. *Postmortem was not performed. No clear diagnosis of her condition could be established for her death.*
 4. *However, no evidence of clinical negligence can be found in events related to the procedure of delivery and immediate postpartum period.”*

23. The Committee has observed that from 21.06.2020 till 01.07.2020, the patient remained at home as there is no record which shows that she had visited the Respondent or any other doctor during these ten days. This further strengthens the assertion of the Respondent that there was no bleeding post-delivery or any other major complication of delivery. Had there been post-partum hemorrhage (PPH) soon after the delivery the patient would not have stayed home for continuous ten days.
24. The Committee observed that as per statement of the Respondent, she again received a call from the Complainant stating that the patient is experiencing loss of appetite. Upon specifically enquiry, there was no bleeding or fever to the patient but only loss of appetite. Similarly, during the hearing when the Complainant was asked by the Committee about the symptoms of the patient for which she was taken to Jinnah Hospital. He stated that the patient had lost appetite, she did not talk to anyone and further she always insisted to take rest. All the symptoms of patient explained by the Complainant i.e. loss of appetite, silence and asking for rest all the time are suggestive of severe depression, which is very common after delivery. However, no co-relation has been established between delivery performed by Respondent at Ali Ultrasound and Gastroscopy Clinic Narowal, and later treatment of the patient at Jinnah Hospital.
25. In view of submissions of parties, documents available on record and the Expert opinion, allegation of professional negligence is not substantiated and established against the Respondent doctor. Therefore, the complaint is disposed to the extent of professional negligence. Apart from the allegations in the complaint the Disciplinary Committee has noted with concern that Dr. Tasneem is simple MBBS doctor and she does not hold any qualification in gynecology. In her written reply submitted in response to Show Cause Notice she has taken the stance that she has wide experience in gynecological procedures. It is clarified that Section 29 of the PMC Act specifically prescribe that a general practitioner may treat all ordinarily recognized common medical or dental ailments and shall not practice in fields or specialties, as recognized by the Commission for which formal training is required. Wide experience that too self-proclaimed experience does not entitle any practitioner to carry out any procedure which requires recognized qualification along with supervised training. Therefore, Dr. Tasneem is warned not to carry out any procedure for which she is not entitled/authorized under her license.

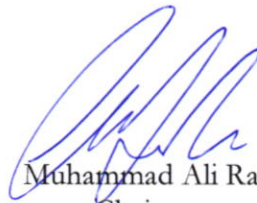
26. The subject proceedings stand disposed of accordingly.



Dr. Anis-ur-Rehman
Member



Dr. Asif Loya
Member



Muhammad Ali Raza
Chairman

20th July, 2022