

Pseudomyxomatous Peritonei

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Abstract

Pseudomyxomatous peritonei is a clinical condition caused by cancerous cells (mucinous adenocarcinoma) that produce abundant mucin or gelatinous ascites. The tumors cause fibrosis of tissues and impede digestion or organ function, if left untreated, the tumors and mucin they produce will fill the abdominal cavity. The standard treatment for these patients is watchful monitoring and debulking followed by chemotherapy. I report a case of a 54 year old female and review the clinical features and treatment of this disease.

Keywords: Ovary; Pseudomyxomatous Peritonei; cyst.

Introduction

A pseudomyxomatous change of ovary is a rare condition and most of its presentations are benign and rarely descends into malignant changes. In the modern era of medicine, such huge mucinous ovarian tumors have become rare in the current medical practice, as most of the cases are diagnosed early during routine gynecological examinations or incidental finding on the ultrasound examination of the pelvis and abdomen [1]. Most of the patients who have large tumors present mainly with the pressure symptoms over the genitourinary

system leading to urinary complaints and also pressure over respiratory system leading to respiratory embarrassment. The role of imaging modalities such as computed tomography (CT) scan and magnetic resonance imaging gives better idea about the extension of the tumor in the various quadrants of the abdomen and consistency of the tumor. Management of ovarian cysts depends on the patient's age, the size of the cyst, and its histopathological nature. Four frozen sections are very important to know the malignant variation of this tumor and that helps in the management of the patient.

Case Report

A 54 yrs old female came with gradually increasing distension of abdomen since last 6- 8 months. The patient was menopausal since last 7 years and there was no significant past medical or surgical history. On examination her general condition was fair, thin built and her weight was 50kgs. Vitals were stable; pulse was 68 beats/min, and blood pressure was 110/70 mmHg. Respiratory and cardiovascular system examination findings were normal. In per abdomen examination and inspection, there was huge distension all over the abdomen and skin over the abdomen had thinned and was shiny. On palpation, the tumor was 32 weeks of uterine size, soft to firm in consistency, mobility like ascitic fluid; margins were ill defined, were extending from the lower pelvis till xiphisternum and laterally upto both sides of iliac fossa. Her hematological investigations were within normal limits. Her liver, renal functions were also in normal values.

Her USG reports were s/o cystic mass of

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size 30 X 12 X 16 cms extending from supraumbilical region to pelvis.

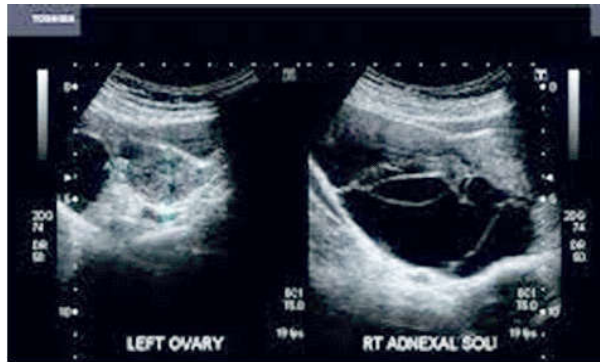


Fig. 1:

CT Abdo+pelvis was s/o multiseptated peripherally partially calcified cystic SOL in lower abdomen and pelvis on right side suggestive of ovarian neoplastic etiology like mucinous cystadenocarcinoma.

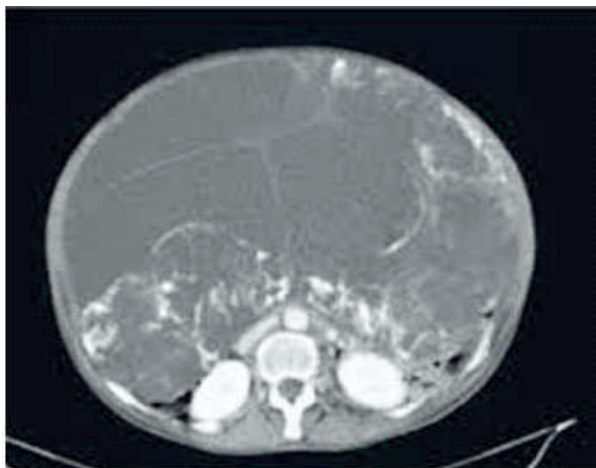


Fig. 2:

Patient was planned for exploratory laprotomy for debulking procedure after fitness. A midline incision was taken and peritoneum was reflected and mucoid masses evacuated completely and appendicectomy along with hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy was done. Post operative recovery was uneventful. The patient withstood the surgery well with no intraoperative or postoperative complications. On day 10 of surgery, complete suture removal was done and wound was healthy.

Histopathology of specimen sent was consistent with multiple cystic secondary deposits of mucinous adenocarcinoma with calcification and bone formation.

Hence, patient was discharged and referred to oncology department for further management. The

patient received four cycles of adjuvant chemotherapy (oral capecitabine) and was discharged in healthy condition.



Fig. 3: Intra-Operative Photographs

Literature Review

Pseudomyxomatous peritonei is a rare condition with an incidence of 0.5-1 per cent per million population. The exact origin of this condition point, specially in women, stem from the fact that synchronous appendiceal and ovarian disease is common and overall preponderance for it. The disease is characterized by diffuse intra-abdominal gelatinous collections (jelly belly) with mucinous implants on peritoneal surfaces and omentum. The locoregional progression of the disease results in intestinal failure and malnutrition secondary to raised intra abdominal pressure, fistula formation and infection and hence the associated considerable mortality and morbidity.

In 1995, Ronnett et al proposed separating pseudomyxoma peritonei cases into two diagnostic categories: adenoma (disseminated peritoneal adenomucinosis, DPAM) or carcinoma (peritoneal mucinous carcinomatosis, PMCA) with a third category reserved for cases with intermediate features. The imaging and staging modality of choice is CT scanning, in most cases the striking feature is the relative sparing of small bowel and its mesentery, with small bowel content, mucin has similar appearance to water in CT.

In past, treatment compromised of interval debulking with no realistic long time cure. The natural history of disease had been altered by Sugarbaker who advised debulking followed by HIPEC to eliminate microscopic and residual disease. The majority had (60%) had complete cytoreduction. The uniform treatment approaches has improved shown 10 year survival rate, as compared with past treatment.

Discussion

Pseudomyxoma peritonei is an indolent disease and preferentially affects women with an average age of 53 years. It is traditionally believed that most cases of PMP originate from ovarian tumors. As symptoms remain non-specific the disease presents a great diagnostic challenge to clinicians. Clinical presentation is late and patients usually experience a long course of health deterioration before an accurate diagnosis is made.

Surgical expertise is required to prevent complications as in huge tumors the anatomical planes get distorted. Giant mucinous cystadenocarcinomas are very rare with a huge abdominal enlargement. The main objective of this report is to call attention to ovarian epithelial cysts in the outpatient clinics and primary care services, contributing to a decrease in any underdiagnosis, misdiagnosis, and underreporting that might occur.

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