

Poorly Differentiated Carcinoma in a Teratoma: Case Report

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Background

Teratomas are neoplasms that arise from the primordial germ cells. They can undergo malignant transformation, with squamous cell carcinoma being the most common type. Other malignancies that can arise in a teratoma include adenocarcinoma, thyroid malignancies, carcinoid tumors and mucinous adenocarcinoma etc.

Case

A 70 yr old post menopausal lady presented with abdominal distension for the past three months and abdominal pain for the past one month. Examination of the abdomen revealed a 6x5 cm mass in the suprapubic region, extending upto the umbilicus. All the haematological and biochemical parameters were within normal limits. Ultrasonogram abdomen showed a complex mass with a cystic component of size 6.6x5.6 cm with mural nodule and focal wall thickening. Per speculum and per vaginal examination did not show any abnormalities.

A CT scan of the abdomen, showed a large dermoid cyst on the right side. There was a large ill-defined lesion with a solid and a cystic component in the midline, slightly to the left. The uterus and ovary on the left were not visualised separately. A malignant ovarian lesion was suggested on the left. On laprotomy, the uterus and

the adnexa were all adherent to the dermoid cyst and the omentum. Frozen section of the dermoid and the omentum was sent which was given as positive for malignancy. On routine processing, the right ovary was a teratoma with its wall infiltrated by a poorly differentiated carcinoma. Similar looking cancer cells were seen on the other side ovary, around the tube and also in the omentum which was sampled extensively. A final diagnosis of malignancy in a teratoma was given. There was also a poorly differentiated carcinoma on the other ovary, fallopian tube and omentum.

Results

The final report in pathology was given as poorly differentiated carcinoma in a teratoma with involvement of the other side adnexa and omentum, and was staged as pT2bNxcM0.

Conclusions

This case is presented for its rarity. Squamous cell carcinoma in a teratoma has been reported, but very few cases of poorly differentiated carcinoma in a teratoma are seen in literature.

Keywords: Teratoma; Malignancy; Poorly differentiated.