Case report

Primary leiomyosarcoma of the omentum presenting as an ovarian carcinoma, case report and review of the literature

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A B S T R A C T

Primary omental leiomyosarcoma is a rare tumor. We report a case of successfully resected omental leiomyosarcoma whose presentation mimicked ovarian carcinoma. Symptoms of abdominal distension and discomfort that lasted 8 months followed by pain lead to a diagnosis of a large mass in the abdomen. Physical examination revealed a large, over 20 cm tumor, suspected to be of ovarian origin. A small amount of ascites was found on Computerized Tomography (CT) and ultrasound (US) scans. Total abdominal hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy, omentectomy and tumor debulking procedure was planned. Laparotomy revealed normal uterus ovaries and tubes with a leiomyosarcoma of the omentum which was completely resected successfully. Only 26 cases of primary leiomyosarcoma of the omentum were previously described in the literature. A review of the literature is also presented.

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1. Introduction

Primary leiomyosarcoma of the greater omentum is a rare pathologic entity, and the literature includes only 27 cases including this one (Table 1). The pre-operative diagnosis of these tumors is difficult and the diagnosis is usually made post operatively.

We report a case of a 55 year old woman with clinical symptoms of abdominal distension and discomfort followed by pelvic pain. The omental origin of the tumor could not be identified using CT and US scans. We also review the literature.

2. Case report

A 55-year-old, previously fit and well woman, presented with increasing abdominal distension and discomfort for 8 months and pelvic pain that began a few days prior to presentation. A CT scan was performed as part of the evaluation and demonstrated a huge abdominal mass, measuring more than 20 cm in cross section in the left side of the abdomen. A small amount of ascites was also noted. The mass had some large draining vessels on the left side and there was also a peritoneal cavity which was extensively recruited with huge vessels from the omentum and appearing to be parasitic in nature was found, the tumor and foci of smooth muscle in blood vessel walls in the omentum. Histopathologic examination revealed the diagnosis of a leiomyosarcoma (Fig. 2). The tumor seemed to be arising from the smooth muscle in blood vessel walls in the omentum. Histopathologic examination revealed a multinodular but smooth outer surface of the tumor and foci of fleshy and pale cream-yellow with mucoid/mixoid areas underneath. The microscopic examination confirmed the
diagnosis of sarcoma with moderately cellular interlacing fascicles of spindle cells with a high degree of mitotic figures and atypical forms along with areas of mixoid change and coagulative tumor necrosis. Immunohistochemical staining was diffusely positive for desmin and smooth muscle actin, and strongly negative for S100 and CD34 in keeping with leiomyosarcoma. The rest of the omentum was free of tumor.

The uterus, cervix, ovaries and fallopian tubes showed no evidence of disease, a positron emission tomography (PET) scan demonstrated no further suspicious lesions. The case was reviewed at the gynecologic oncology tumor board and also at the specialized sarcoma unit tumor board meetings and both advised no adjuvant chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

| Number | Reference | Age (years) | Sex | Symptoms | Imaging | Preoperative diagnosis | Tumor size and Spread | Treatment | Outcome |
|--------|-----------|-------------|-----|----------|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------|
| 1      | Stout et al., 1963 | 38 | M | Abdominal mass and pain | NA | Abdominal mass | Implants on small bowel and peritoneum | Biopsy | Died 48 h post-op. |
| 2      | Stout et al., 1963 | 29 | F | Mass, uterine bleeding, abdominal | NA | Uterine bleeding, abdominal mass | 3 omental tumors 3 cm, 5 cm and 6 cm. Peritoneal implants. | Hysterectomy. Excision of tumors | Died 18 months post-op. |
| 3      | Stout et al., 1963 | 26 | F | Pain | NA | Uterine bleeding, abdominal distension | 20 cm omental tumor, fibroid uterus, hemoserous ascites | Hysterectomy. Excision of tumors | Died 36 h post-op. due to PE |
| 4      | Weinberger & Ahmed, 1997 | 68 | F | Abdominal mass | NA | Abdominal mass | NA | Omentectomy | Alive 2.5 years follow-up |
| 5      | Weinberger & Ahmed, 1997 | 80 | M | Pain | NA | Abdominal mass | NA | Omentectomy | Died 6 months post-op. |
| 6      | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 52 | F | Abdominal mass | NA | Abdominal mass | 11 × 26 × 15 cm | Excision | Died 3 years follow-up |
| 7      | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 46 | M | Pain | NA | Epigastric pain | 8 × 10 × 10 cm, spread to stomach | Excision | Alive 7 years follow-up |
| 8      | Fattar et al., 1981 | 52 | M | Abdominal mass | NA | Angiography Right gastroepiploic artery | 4.2 kg tumor with peritoneal seeding | Excision | NA |
| 9      | Dixon et al., 1984 | 85 | M | Fullness | NA | Hemorrhagic ascites | 6 cm | No treatment | Died within 2 days from presentation |
| 10     | Schwartz et al., 1991 | 40 | M | Pain | NA | Abdominal mass | 10 cm | Excision, omentectomy | Alive 1.5 years follow-up |
| 11     | Lee et al., 1991 | 42 | F | Abdominal mass | US CT | Abdominal mass | 20 cm | NA | NA |
| 12     | Lee et al., 1991 | 60 | M | Abdominal mass | US CT | Abdominal mass | 20 cm | NA | NA |
| 13     | Lee et al., 1991 | 55 | M | Abdominal mass | US CT | Abdominal mass | 10 cm | NA | NA |
| 14     | Langlieb et al., 1992 | 46 | F | Abdominal mass + pain | CT | Abdo | 20 cm | Excision, hysterectomy + BSO, omentectomy | NA |
| 15     | Mahon et al., 1993 | 51 | M | Abdominal mass | CT | Omental tumor | 28 × 25 cm | Excision, omentectomy | Alive 6 months follow-up |
| 16     | Ishida et al., 1999 Mar | 44 | M | Abdominal mass | US CT | Omentum | 50 g, greater omentum | Excision | Died (post-op) |
| 17     | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 48 | M | Abdominal mass | | | | Excision | Died (post-op) |
| 18     | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 29 | F | NA | | | 6 × 5 × 3 cm, greater omentum | Excision | Recurrence, died |
| 19     | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 26 | F | Abdominal distess | US CT | Abdominal mass | 20 cm | NA | NA |
| 20     | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 32 | M | Abdominal distess | US CT | Abdominal mass | 20 cm | NA | NA |
| 21     | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 70 | F | Abdominal mass | US CT | Abdominal mass | 20 cm | NA | NA |
| 22     | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 55 | M | Abdominal distension | US CT | Multiple, greater omentum | 22 × 14 × 13 cm, greater omentum | Excision | Died-metastasis |
| 23     | Tanimura et al., 1980 | 43 | M | Abdominal mass | US CT | Greater omentum | 22 × 19 × 12 cm, greater omentum | Excision | Died-metastasis |
| 24     | Tsurumi et al., 1991 | 59 | M | Abdominal mass | US, CT, angiography, laparoscopy | Greater omentum | Excision | Alive |
| 25     | Kimura et al., 1997 | 58 | M | Pain, nausea | | Lesser sack | | Excision | |
| 26     | Koga et al., 2002 | 63 | F | Abdominal mass | | Leiomyosarcoma | 12.5 × 9 × 8 greater omentum and 6 liver metastases | Excision + chemotherapy | Alive |
| 27     | (our case) | 55 | F | Abdominal mass and pain | US CT | Ovarian carcinoma | 23 × 20 × 13 cm | Excision | Alive |
3. Discussion

Leiomyosarcoma of the omentum is a rare condition and can present in various ways. In this case a large pelvic tumor with omental involvement, ascites and elevated CA125 was discovered in an otherwise healthy patient.

Ultrasound scan was able to detect the tumor and showed accurately the internal structure of the lesion, nevertheless, it failed to determine the site of origin. This limitation of US may be attributed to the presence of bowel gas and attenuation of the US beam passing through a huge tumor, both factors prevent precise observation of the anatomic relationship between the lesion and the neighboring organs (Ishida et al., 1999). A CT scan can sometimes determine the omental origin of the tumor. Ishida and Ishida (1998) stated it to be the imaging of choice for greater omental tumors. A gastro-colic separation resulting from a tumor in the omentum can sometimes be seen (Fattar et al., 1981) and their CT appearance is usually multilobulated, flat, and pancake-like, with enhancing solid and multicystic densities. However, in this case the presentation, US and CT diagnosis were suspected to represent ovarian carcinoma. There is one other case described in the literature in which leiomyosarcoma was initially diagnosed as an ovarian malignancy (Langlieb et al., 1992). Ascites and elevated CA-125 that are sometimes associated with this tumor (Dixon et al., 1984; Langlieb et al., 1992) can suggest the initial diagnosis of ovarian carcinoma.

Angiography was described as useful in the diagnosis of greater omental tumors (Dixon et al., 1984; Fattar et al., 1981; Ishida et al., 1999). A diagnosis of a greater omental tumor can be suspected when a feeding artery to the tumor originates from the omental blood supply. The major arterial blood supply of the greater omentum is largely from the right and left gastroepiploic arteries, which derive from the gastroduodenal and splenic arteries (Sivak, 1992). A very vascular lesion with neovascularity, is more likely to represent a malignant tumor (Ishida et al., 1999).

Leiomyosarcoma is but one of many greater omental tumors. Reported primary tumors of the omentum, include leiomyosarcoma, fibrosarcoma, hemangiopericytoma, spindle cell sarcoma, liposarcoma, leiomyoma, lipoma, desmoid tumor, fibroma, mesothelioma, and others (Fattar et al., 1981; Ishida et al., 1999; Stout et al., 1963; Weinberger and Ahmed, 1997) They derive from different elements in the greater omentum which is composed mainly of fat but contains various tissues--such as vessels and lymphatics. Nevertheless, all of these primary omental tumors are very rare.

The frequency of omental leiomyosarcoma is uncertain. Altogether 27 cases (including this one) have been reported in the literature up to date. Thirteen cases were published between 1934 and 1979 and reviewed by Tanimura et al. (1980). From 1980 to the present, another 14 cases have been reported. Only one of the previously reported cases was suspected to be ovarian carcinoma at the outset (Langlieb et al., 1992).

The median age of patients with Leiomyosarcoma of the omentum in the cases published in the literature was 51 years (range: 26–85, SD: 15.3). The tumor is slightly more common among males (16 patients, 59.2%) and females (11 patients, 40.7%).

Ishida et al. (1999) has reviewed the cases from 1963 to 1999 and found a correlation between a symptom free mass and a better prognosis. This correlation is not as clear when adding the cases published before 1963, although much of the details regarding these cases are unavailable to us. Also, due to the limitations of imaging techniques in that era, early diagnosis was less likely.

Although these tumors are very rare, a diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma should be considered in a patient with an abdominal mass or distention and imaging studies demonstrating a huge mass with a central cystic...
area in the greater omentum. The CT scan is probably more useful than US in the diagnosis of these cases and angiography may also prove useful demonstrating omental blood supply to the tumor. An accurate diagnosis can only be achieved with a histopathologic examination of the tumor (Ishida et al., 1999).

Complete surgical excision of these tumors if feasible is probably the best option and can lead to long periods of disease free survival.

4. Conclusion

We report a case of a leiomyosarcoma of the greater omentum, presenting as ovarian carcinoma. Complete surgical excision of the tumor was performed and the patient recovered well. These tumors are very rare and the accurate determination of their precise anatomic location is usually difficult. The method of choice for imaging these tumors is CT scan with or without angiography. Complete surgical excision of these tumors can lead to long term survival.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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