Imaging Features of Breast Periductal Stromal Tumor: A Case Report

Ning Ding1, Ying Jiang2, Haimin Liu3, Fuling Zheng1, Shenling Zhu4, Ming Wang4, Meng Yang4, Lingyan Kong1*, Huadan Xue1 and Zhengyu Jin1*

1 Department of Radiology, State Key Laboratory of Complex Severe and Rare Diseases, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Science and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China, 2 Department of Pathology, State Key Laboratory of Complex Severe and Rare Diseases, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Science and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China, 3 Department of Medical Record, State Key Laboratory of Complex Severe and Rare Diseases, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Science and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China, 4 Department of Ultrasound, State Key Laboratory of Complex Severe and Rare Diseases, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Science and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China

Breast periductal stromal tumor (PDST) is a rare biphasic tumor, with both benign ductal epithelium and non-phyllodes sarcomatous stroma. Its imaging features were rarely reported due to the rarity. In this study, we describe the case of a 48-year-old female who presented with a palpable mass in the right breast. Presurgery imaging evaluations of full-field digital mammography (FFDM), digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT), and ultrasonography (US) were performed. The imaging features include the following: 1. multiple solid lobulated lesions comprising nearly the entire right breast; 2. hypoechoic heterogeneous masses with internal separations and abundant blood flow; 3. FFDM and DBT showed multiple irregular high-density masses with lobulated margin, partially integrated. The patient underwent extended mastectomy of the right breast. The surgical pathology confirmed a PDST. After excision of the mass, she was followed up in the outpatient clinic for 25 months without local recurrence or distant metastasis.

Keywords: breast periductal stromal tumor, imaging, ultrasonography, mammography, digital breast tomosynthesis

INTRODUCTION

Breast periductal stromal tumor (PDST) is a rare condition and accounts for less than 1% of all breast malignancies. As far as we know, only sporadic cases were reported (1–9). As a biphasic tumor, PDST shows both benign ductal epithelium and non-phyllodes sarcomatous stroma. It is most likely to originate from the periductal stroma (10). Considering the infiltrative characteristic of
the tumor, surgical excision with enough margin is required (6). Presurgery imaging plays an important role in the surgical planning and the follow-up management of PDST. However, because of the rarity of the disease, its radiological features were seldom reported. We present a case of breast PDST with multiple-modality preoperational images, including full-field digital mammography (FFDM), digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT), and ultrasonography (US).

**CASE PRESENTATION**

Written informed consent was obtained from the individual for the publication of any potentially identifiable images or data included in this article.

A 48-year-old woman was admitted with an 8-year history of right breast mass. The mass had been steady at the size of a “jujube” until it grew rapidly during the few months before
admission. The patient, with no family history of breast cancer, had a history of fibroadenoma excision of the left breast 27 years ago. On physical examination, her right breast was grossly plumper than the opposite, with an approximately 8-cm palpable mass, which was painless and mobile. Remarkable subcutaneous varicose veins were shown in her right breast. Nipple discharge was not reported (Figure 1).

A 3–12-MHz linear transducer (RS80A with Prestige, Samsung Medison, Co. Ltd.) was utilized for the US examination. The initial US revealed multiple irregular hypoechoic masses with lobulated irregular margin (red arrow) in the right breast. The largest lesion was located 2 cm from the areola area, which measured 7.1 cm × 9.1 cm × 5.6 cm, and internal mass echogenicity was heterogeneous with abundant internal vascularity. Multiple banded hyperechogenic septa were noted (Figure 2).

FFDM (Senographe Essential, General Electric Company, USA) revealed integrated multiple irregular lobulated high-density masses comprising nearly the entire right breast that is asymmetrically enlarged compared to the left. There is no suspicious finding in the left breast (Figure 3).

DBT (Senographe Essential, General Electric Company, USA) demonstrated improvement in sharpness of the margins and internal septa of the masses. The masses measured in total 7.8 cm × 9.1 cm × 7.4 cm in size, integrated, with irregular shape and multiple lobulations. No enlarged lymph nodes were noted (Figures 4, 5).

The breast lesion was classified as Breast Imaging-Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS) 3 by FFDM and BI-RADS 4A based on DBT and US. Considering the size and the rapid growth of the mass, surgical excision was recommended without biopsy.

The patient underwent extended mastectomy of the right breast. After the surgery, she received neither chemotherapy nor radiotherapy. She is currently doing well without any sign of recurrence for 25 months.

Grossly, the tumor in the lumpectomy specimen measured 8.5 cm × 6.5 cm × 5 cm in size with a gray-pink section, solid texture, and lobulated borders. The pathological diagnosis was a PDST of the breast. As for the determination of malignancy, this case demonstrated invasive growth, significant pleomorphism, active mitosis (>10/10 HPF or >5/mm²) with pathological mitosis, and was rich in mesenchymal cells, so it was classified as malignant (Figure 6).

**DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSES**

**Phyllodes Tumor**
The imaging features of phyllodes tumor and PDST overlap. They were mainly distinguished by pathological characteristics. Unlike phyllodes tumors, PDST does not present a leaflike architecture. In our case, the tumor had no obvious phyllode fissure; however, it partially retained the structure of breast lobules. The residual breast ducts and lobules in the tumor...
maintained a normal contour, while the cell density at the epithelial–mesenchymal junction did not increase significantly.

**Juvenile Fibroadenoma**

When the size of a fibroadenoma is greater than 5 cm with increased stromal cellularity and epithelial hyperplasia on tissue analysis, it is classified as juvenile fibroadenoma (11). Juvenile fibroadenoma is uncommon, usually seen in adolescent girls (10); hence, juvenile fibroadenoma is less likely in a patient of middle age. Fibroadenomas typically present as unilateral firm non-tender masses. However, tissue pathology is required for a definitive diagnosis.

**Invasive Ductal Carcinoma**

Invasive ductal carcinoma (IDC) can be displayed as a large mass or multiple fused masses and enlarge rapidly. The histopathological features of IDC vary considerably from case to case and can even vary within the same case. However, IDC mass at this size is often associated with obvious malignancy features including infiltrative boundary and non-circumscribed margins that were not shown in this case. Moreover, the lack of risk factors makes breast carcinoma less likely.

**DISCUSSION**

The PDST has been suggested as part of the spectrum of phyllodes tumor, and the name PDST was adopted in the fourth edition of WHO Classification of Tumors of the Breast published in the year 2012 (12, 13), as these two types exhibit similar pathological features and progression from PDST to phyllodes tumor has been documented (6). In the fifth edition of WHO Classification of Tumors, PDST is distinguished with the feature lacking the fronded architecture of typical phyllodes tumors, and it is regarded as a subtype of phyllodes tumor (10). So far, the knowledge of PDST mainly comes from case reports; no standard of care has been established.

According to the largest case serial report of PDST by Burga et al. (6), PDST is more commonly seen in perimenopausal and postmenopausal women (6); however, a single case of PDST in a 14-year-old girl has also been reported (8). The reported mass size was diversified between 0.2 and 20 cm (1–6, 14–16). Surgery with negative margins is commonly accepted as the first choice of treatment. The prognosis and standard of care for PDST is not well documented. Although most phyllodes tumors are benign, PDSTs displayed varying degrees of atypia and mitotic activity and were depicted as a low-grade malignant in 2012 WHO Classification of tumors of the breast. In this case, infiltrative growth, rich in interstitial cells, obvious atypia, active mitosis (>10/10 HPF or 5/mm²), and pathological mitosis indicated malignancy. Recurrent rate for PDST was reported varying from 10% to 55% (7, 17). Margin status appears to be the most relevant factor for prognosis. Metastasis of phyllodes tumors to axillary lymph nodes is rare; however, for malignant cases, distant metastasis could be seen 5–8 years after diagnosis. For this case, a 3-month interval follow-up plan was recommended. Fortunately, until the very last follow-up, no sign of local recurrence or distant metastasis is noted.
Preoperational imaging provides essential information for individualized surgical planning.

As far as we know, no classic imaging features have been reported due to the rarity of PDST. Our case offered detailed imaging features on US, FFDM, and DBT of PDST. The key imaging characteristics were the following: (1) multiple solid lobulated lesions comprising nearly the entire right breast; (2) hypoechoic and heterogeneous echo patterns with internal separations and abundant blood flow were noted; (3) FFDM and DBT showed multiple irregular high-density masses with lobulated margin, partially integrated. To our knowledge, this is the first case report of PDST with descriptions of multiple imaging modalities; these findings are consistent with previous studies (1–6, 14) with informative morphological details.

DBT, which involves multiple projections, is a promising technique for breast cancer screening and diagnosis. Compared with FFDM alone, DBT plus FFDM demonstrated higher cancer detection rate (18). Moreover, DBT showed improvements in lesion detection, characterization, and localization. In this case, the suspicious feature of multiple internal septa and irregular boundaries were more clearly depicted in DBT than FFDM (Figures 3–5), providing more evidence for a precise diagnosis.

**CONCLUSION**

We provided a case of PDST with imaging of FFDM, DBT, and the US. The detailed imaging feature of the PDST case was depicted. DBT was recommended than FFDM alone as the added value in recognizing suspicious features. Presurgery imaging can provide general information on breast mass, making it easier to formulate surgical and follow-up plans.
DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material. Further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding authors.

ETHICS STATEMENT

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH) that has reviewed the study. The patient/participant provided her written informed consent to participate in this study. Written informed consent was obtained from the individual for the publication of any potentially identifiable images or data included in this article.

REFERENCES

1. EV F, S Z. Periductal Stromal Tumor of the Breast: Case Report and Literature Review. Ann Clin Lab Sci (2018) 48:770–5.
2. SR W, LJ A, H G, T B. Periductal Stromal Sarcoma of the Breast With Liposarcomatous Differentiation: A Case Report With 10-Year Follow-Up and Literature Review. Int J Surg Pathol (2015) 23:221–4. doi: 10.1177/1066896914567331
3. Lan Y, Zhu J, Liu J, Yang H, Jiang Y, Wei W. Periductal Stromal Sarcoma of the Breast: A Case Report and Review of the Literature. Oncol Lett (2014) 8:1181–3. doi: 10.3892/ol.2014.2294
4. R C, G M, GM V, S L. Low Grade Periductal Stromal Sarcoma With Marked Sclero-Elastosis. Pathology (2011) 43:509–10. doi: 10.1097/PAT.0b013e3284ba2764
5. Tomas D, Jankovic D, Marusić Z, Franceschi A, Mijić A, Kruslin B. Low-Grade Periductal Stromal Sarcoma of the Breast With Myxoid Features: Immunohistochemistry. Pathol Int (2009) 59:588–91. doi: 10.1111/j.1440-1827.2009.02411.x
6. Burga AM, Tavassoli FA. Periductal Stromal Tumor: A Rare Lesion With Low-Grade Sarcomatous Behavior. Am J Surg Pathol (2003) 27:343–8. doi: 10.1097/00000478-200303000-00007
7. Valente I, Ristani A, Mancini C, Martella E, Quartieri L, D’Alia C. Management of a Periductal Stromal Tumor in a Young Woman: Our Breast Unit Experience. J Breast J (2020) 26:1375–8. doi: 10.1111/jbj.13943
8. Arab W, Moubarak M, Fattah S, Khazen J, Khaddage A, El Kassis N, et al. Periductal Stromal Tumor of the Breast in a Young Lady: A Case Report. J Breast J (2021) 27:380–3. doi: 10.1111/jbj.14158
9. Wabik A, Van Boekstal M, Berlière M, Galant C. Periductal Stromal Tumors and Phyllodes Tumors Represent a Spectrum of Fibroepithelial Lesions: What Is in a Name? J Surg Pathol (2021) 29:97–101. doi: 10.1002/706896920929086
10. WHO Classification of Tumours Editorial Board. World Health Organization Classification of Tumours of the Breast. Vol. 5th Edition, Volume 2: Breast Tumours. 69572 Lyon CEDEX 08, France: IARC Press, 150 Cours Albert Thomas (2019).
11. Sosin M, Pulcrano M, Feldman ED, Patel KM, Nahabedian MY, Weisler JM, et al. Giant Juvenile Fibroadenoma: A Systematic Review With Diagnostic and Treatment Recommendations. Gland Surg (2015) 4:312–21. doi: 10.3978/j.issn.2227-684X.2015.06.04
12. SR Lakhani, J Ellis, SJ Schnitt, PH Tan, MJ van de Vijver eds. WHO Classification of Tumors of the Breast. Lyon, France: IARC Press (2012).
13. PH T, IO E. Myoepithelial and Epithelial-Myoepithelial, Mesenchymal and Fibroepithelial Breast Lesions: Updates From the WHO Classification of Tumours of the Breast 2012. J Clin Pathol (2013) 66:465–70. doi: 10.1136/jclinpath-2012-201078
14. Masbah O, Lalya I, Mellas N, Bekkouch I, Allouai M, Hassouni K, et al. Periductal Stromal Sarcoma in a Child: A Case Report. J Med Case Rep (2011) 5:249. doi: 10.1186/1752-1947-5-249
15. AC R, V G, A K. Periductal Stromal Sarcoma of Breast With Lipoblast-Like Cells: A Case Report With Review of Literature. Indian J Pathol Microbiol (2008) 51:252–4. doi: 10.4103/0377-4929.41673
16. CD C, PP R, DW K. Sarcoma of the Breast. A Study of 32 Patients With Reappraisal of Classification and Therapy. Ann Surg (1985) 201:527–32. doi: 10.1097/00000658-198504000-00020
17. Blanchard DK, Reynolds CA, Grant CS, Donohue JH. Primary Nonphylloides Breast Sarcomas. Am J Surg Pathol (2003) 27:91–3. doi: 10.1016/s0002-9610(03)00269-1
18. Chong A, Weinstein SP, McDonald ES, Conant EF. Digital Breast Tomosynthesis: Concepts and Clinical Practice. Radiology (2019) 292:1–14. doi: 10.1148/radiol.2019180760

CONFlict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Publisher’s Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

Copyright © 2021 Ding, Jiang, Liu, Zheng, Zhu, Wang, Yang, Kong, Xue and Jin. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.