Oncology

Intra-abdominal desmoid tumor mimicking local recurrence of renal cell carcinoma after laparoscopic partial nephrectomy

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ABSTRACT

A 64-year-old man had an intra-abdominal mass that was detected in a follow-up examination after laparoscopic partial nephrectomy for renal cell carcinoma (RCC). CT showed an enhanced mass of 2.5-cm diameter near the right kidney, where partial nephrectomy had been performed. Local recurrence of RCC with duodenum invasion was suspected, and excision was performed. The final pathological diagnosis of desmoid tumor differed from the preoperative diagnosis. Therefore, we report this case as a rare example of intra-abdominal desmoid tumor mimicking local recurrence of RCC. To our knowledge, this is the first report of intra-abdominal desmoid tumor after laparoscopic partial nephrectomy.

Introduction

Desmoid tumor is a very rare tumor that has an incidence of about 2.4 per 1,000,000 each year and is sometimes caused by surgery or injury. Here, we report a case of an intra-abdominal desmoid tumor that mimicked local recurrence of RCC.

Case presentation

A 64-year-old man was found to have an intra-abdominal mass in a follow-up examination after laparoscopic surgery for renal cell carcinoma (RCC). He had no relevant family history. The patient had been referred to our hospital 18 months earlier for an incidental renal mass of 1.5 cm in diameter that was suspected to be RCC, and laparoscopic right partial nephrectomy had been performed. The surgery had been successful with no perioperative complications. The pathological diagnosis was pT1aN0M0, clear cell RCC (G2, Fuhrman G3, INFa, v0, ly0) and the surgical margin was negative.

Early-phase CT before partial nephrectomy had shown an initial enhanced 1.5-cm diameter mass in the right ventral kidney (Fig. 1A). Follow-up CT 18 months after surgery showed a new enhanced 2.5-cm diameter mass near the right kidney, where partial nephrectomy had been performed. The new mass appeared to be invading the duodenum (Fig. 1B). Sonazoid-enhanced contrast ultrasonography also suggested an invasive mass in the duodenum wall, and PET/CT revealed FDG accumulation in the mass and duodenum wall (Fig. 1C). All laboratory
findings were within normal ranges, except a slightly decreased Hb level (11.2 g/dl). Therefore, we suspected local recurrence of RCC and we removed the mass and duodenum. Intraoperatively, the mass arose from the Gerota fascia and adhered strongly to the duodenum. Fortunately, we were able to complete the surgery without pancreate-duodenectomy. The surgical time was 325 min, blood loss was 430 ml, and there were no perioperative complications.

Histologically, the tumor was composed of uniform, spindle cells within a collagenous matrix. There was no necrosis, and very little abnormal mitosis and cellular atypia were observed. Microscopically, the image was totally different from the previously resected clear cell RCC (Fig. 2A and B). Immunohistochemical staining showed that the nuclei of tumor cells were positive for beta-catenin (red arrow), which is a non-specific marker for desmoid tumor. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

In our case, intra-abdominal desmoid tumor was diagnosed based on histological findings and immunohistochemical staining. Only expression of beta-catenin is positive in desmoid tumor immunohistochemically, which helps with diagnosis; however, the lack of specific markers for desmoid tumor requires diagnosis by exclusion. In preoperative diagnosis, the desmoid tumor was regarded as local recurrence of RCC based on FDG accumulation in PET/CT. This method is widely used for staging and differential diagnosis, but distinguishing between malignant and benign tumors using PET/CT is difficult because increased SUVs may occur in both types of tumors.

Discussion

Desmoid tumor is a rare tumor that has no metastatic potential, but occasionally shows invasive growth. Desmoid tumor after surgery for RCC has been described in three previous case reports based on a PubMed search using key words of “desmoid tumor”, “desmoid-type fibromatosis”, or “fibromatosis and nephrectomy”. The characteristics of these three cases and our case are shown in Table 1. Three of the patients were male and one was female. The time of onset of desmoid tumor after surgery was > 18 months in all cases. The location of the tumor was the abdominal wall in two cases, the rectus abdominis muscle in one case, and intraperitoneal in the vicinity of the duodenum in our case. In three cases, including our case, the desmoid tumor appeared in a location directly associated with surgery. Surgery for RCC was performed by open nephrectomy in the three previous cases; therefore, our case was the only surgery using laparoscopic partial nephrectomy. Recurrence did not occur in long-term follow-up in three cases, and was not discussed in one case.

In our case, intra-abdominal desmoid tumor was diagnosed based on histological findings and immunohistochemical staining. Only expression of beta-catenin is positive in desmoid tumor immunohistochemically, which helps with diagnosis; however, the lack of specific markers for desmoid tumor requires diagnosis by exclusion. In preoperative diagnosis, the desmoid tumor was regarded as local recurrence of RCC based on FDG accumulation in PET/CT. This method is widely used for staging and differential diagnosis, but distinguishing between malignant and benign tumors using PET/CT is difficult because increased SUVs may occur in both types of tumors.

Conclusion

We experienced an extremely rare case of intra-abdominal desmoid tumor that mimicked local recurrence of RCC. This is the first case report of intra-abdominal desmoid tumor after laparoscopic partial nephrectomy, as far as we are aware. Laparoscopic surgery is widely performed, and the possibility of desmoid tumor should be kept in mind in follow-up after this surgery for a malignancy.

Table 1

| Author          | Age | Sex | Time of onset after surgery | Location            | Surgical form | Recurrence/Follow-up |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Fujita et al.   | 53  | M   | 2 years                     | abdominal wall      | open          | no/2 years           |
| Janitzky et al. | 65  | F   | 3 years                     | rectus abdominis muscle | open         | not listed           |
| Ohtake et al.   | 71  | M   | 29 months                   | abdominal wall      | open          | no/13 months         |
Declarations of interest

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