We report a case of adenocarcinoma arising from a sacrococcygeal mature teratoma in an adult female. A 62-year-old female was diagnosed with a presacral tumor 10 years ago. Pelvic computed tomography (CT) demonstrated a presacral heterogeneous tumor, containing multiloculated cystic area and enhanced solid component with calcification. Percutaneous needle biopsy for the solid component of the tumor identified an adenocarcinoma and the patient was diagnosed as having a sacrococcygeal teratoma with malignant transformation. Abdomino-sacral rectal resection with sacral amputation at the upper edge of the S5 was performed. The pathological diagnosis was adenocarcinoma derived from a mature teratoma. The tumor cells had infiltrated the rectal wall. After 7 months, a follow-up CT demonstrated swelling of the right inguinal lymph nodes and a right inguinal lymphadenectomy was performed. Pathological examination showed metastatic lymph nodes. The patient is doing well 21 months after the second surgery, with no signs of recurrence.

Keywords: adenocarcinoma, teratoma, malignant transformation, sacrococcygeal

INTRODUCTION
Teratomas are a type of germ cell tumor, which are mostly benign, and dominative in adult females (1, 2). The most common site of a primary teratoma is the ovary, followed by the testis, anterior mediastinum, retroperitoneum, and sacrococcygeal area (3–5). Sacrococcygeal teratomas are usually found in newborns or children, and can be detected prenatally; they are exceedingly rare in adults (6). Teratomas are defined as tumors, which are composed of various elements including the mesoderm, endoderm, and ectoderm. The cystic lumen mainly contains sebaceous materials and hairs. In two-thirds of cases, mature elements reflecting differentiation into normally derived cells from all three embryonic germ layers are present. However, any of these constituents has the potential to undergo malignant transformation and the incidence of such cases was reported to be 1–2% in mature ovarian teratomas (6, 7). The most common histologic type of malignant transformation in ovarian teratoma is squamous-cell carcinoma, reported in 70–80% of cases; other types of differentiation including adenocarcinoma, melanoma, and carcinoid tumor, are relatively rare (7, 8).

Although most of the patients with mature teratoma undergo surgical resection due to concern about the potential for malignant transformation, others choose to be followed-up without resection. However, early detection of malignant transformation is often difficult even with current imaging modalities, and it is unclear when the malignant transformation occurs during the follow-up period. We report a case of adenocarcinoma arising from a sacrococcygeal mature teratoma in an adult female who had been followed-up for 10 years.

CASE REPORT
A 62-year-old female who presented with anal pain for 3 months was referred to our hospital. Ten years at another previous hospital she was diagnosed as having both myoma of the uterus and a presacral tumor on computed tomography (CT). Five years later, a repeat pelvic CT scan showed no change in shape or size of the presacral tumor (Figure 1). On admission to our hospital, digital examination showed a palpable hard mass with smooth surface beyond the right-posterior wall of the rectum. Routine laboratory tests were all within normal ranges. The serum carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) was 2.0 ng/ml (normal range, <5 ng/ml) and carbohydrate antigen 19-9 (CA19-9) was 434 U/ml (normal range, <37 U/ml). An enhanced pelvic CT scan demonstrated a presacral heterogeneous tumor, 67 mm × 45 mm, containing a multiloculated cystic area and enhanced solid component with calcification. There was no evidence of distant metastasis. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a presacral non-enhanced cystic lesion with solid component, which was suspected of having invaded the rectal wall, fifth sacral vertebra (S5), and coccyx (Figure 2). Percutaneous needle biopsy of the solid component of the tumor indicated an adenocarcinoma. Based on these findings, the patient was diagnosed as having a sacrococcygeal teratoma with malignant transformation into adenocarcinoma.

Abdomino-sacral rectal resection with permanent colostomy was performed. On laparotomy, there was no evidence of liver metastasis or peritoneal dissemination. After the large uterine myoma was raised, the tumor was palpable on the right side of the rectum. The uterine myoma was not removed. The rectum was fully mobilized and the periosteum of the upper edge of the S5 was exposed. The second step was sacral resection. The patient was placed in a jackknife position, a median incision including the anus was made, and a sacral amputation was carried out using the chisel and hammer at the upper edge of the S5. Following this, the tumor was completely resected from the pelvic floor (Figure 3).
Matsumoto et al. Adenocarcinoma arising from sacrococcygeal teratoma

FIGURE 1 | Longitudinal change of the sacrococcygeal mature teratoma: (A) 10 years before surgery (45.4 mm x 35.9 mm), (B) 5 years before surgery (49.1 mm x 35.4 mm), and (C) just before surgery (67.2 mm x 45.4 mm). The tumor size and shape did not change in the first 5 years, however, in the last 5 years, the size of the tumor increased 1.4-fold and the solid component invaded the rectal wall (white arrows).

FIGURE 2 | (A) Enhanced CT shows a presacral heterogeneous tumor, 67 mm x 45 mm, containing multiloculated cystic area and solid component with calcification (white arrow). (B) T2-weighted sagittal magnetic resonance image demonstrates a presacral non-enhanced cystic lesion with solid component, which was suspected to be strongly adhered to the rectal wall (white arrowheads), S5, and coccyx (black arrows).

FIGURE 3 | (A) Intraoperative photographs show en-bloc resection of the tumor with the rectum, fifth sacral vertebra and coccyx. (B) Black arrows show the cut surface of upper edge of the S5.

Macroscopically, the tumor was a multilocular cystic lesion containing sebaceous matter, hair, and follicles (Figure 4A). The pathological diagnosis was an adenocarcinoma derived from a mature teratoma (Figures 4B–D). There were no lymph node metastases but there was evidence of a slight lymphatic invasion around the rectal wall. The tumor cells had infiltrated into the muscular layer of the rectum. A small number of cancerous cells were present at the radial margin behind the vaginal wall, and the final pathological diagnosis was judged to be an R1 resection (the margins of the resected parts show tumor cells when viewed microscopically). The patient developed a pelvic sepsis but it was treated by conventional open drainage and use of antibiotics, and the postoperative hospital stay was 19 days. The patient did not receive any adjuvant therapy. After 7 months, a follow-up CT demonstrated swelling of the right inguinal lymph nodes (Figure 5A). The additional 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography/CT showed that the maximum standardized uptake value was 9.6, and the swollen lymph nodes were judged to be metastatic lesions. There was no evidence of distant metastasis or local recurrence. A right inguinal lymphadenectomy was performed (Figure 5B). Pathological examination showed adenocarcinoma in 3 of 12 harvested lymph nodes. The patient is doing well 21 months after the second surgery, with no signs of recurrence.

DISCUSSION
It is generally accepted that the patients with sacrococcygeal mature teratomas are suitable for surgical treatment because of
a malignant potential. Once the malignant transformation arises, only en-bloc radical resection offers the possibility of a good outcome. However, it is often difficult to achieve R0 resection when the tumor has become large or has invaded surrounding organs in the narrow pelvis. Therefore, various surgical approaches have been reported, including trans-abdominal, trans-sacral, and a combined abdomino-sacral approach (9–11). In our case, an abdomino-sacral approach was adopted because of the suspicion that the tumor had invaded, not only the rectum but also the distal sacrum and coccyx. The surgical approach selected should be based on various factors including tumor size, location, and invasion to the surrounding organs, and appropriate selection might be the key to successful operation.

Unfortunately, the radial margin was microscopically positive (R1) in the present case. Although adjuvant chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgical re-resection were all treatment options, we did not administer any additional therapy. Several studies have investigated the efficacy of adjuvant chemotherapy and have shown that systemic therapy was beneficial to few patients with malignant transformation from a teratoma. However, the majority of these results were related to the efficacy of adjuvant chemotherapy in squamous-cell carcinomas arising from ovarian teratoma (12, 13). Whereas, radiotherapy has been reported to be a promising approach, whole pelvic radiotherapy increases the risk of late complications such as sexual and voiding dysfunctions, intestinal and defecation problems, and secondary carcinogenesis (14–16). The best adjuvant therapy for this disease has not been defined and we selected to follow-up without any additional treatment.

The pathway from the perineal cutaneous part of the anal canal and the vulva to superficial inguinal nodes is recognized as the “superficial perineal accessory pelvic pathway” (17). In cases with rectal adenocarcinomas invading the dentate line, inguinal lymph node recurrence sometimes develops even after curative resection, although the prognosis is likely to be poor (18). In our case, histologic findings at the initial operation demonstrated that the tumor had invaded the muscular layer of the low rectum and lymphatic invasion was observed. We elected to perform an inguinal lymphadenectomy without radiotherapy and the patient is doing well after 21 months of follow-up, with no signs of recurrence.

In the majority of cases, when a CT and/or MRI scan reveals a sacrococcygeal teratoma, surgical resection is immediately selected because of concerns over malignant transformation. However, it is still unclear when the malignant transformation happens in a benign tumor and how we should observe patients who elect not to have surgical resection. A unique feature of the present case is that the patient had been followed-up by CT examination for 10 years at a previous hospital. The tumor size and shape did not change in the first 5 years, however, in the second 5-year period, there was a 1.4-fold increase in the size of the tumor and the solid component to the surrounding organs, and appropriate selection might be the key to successful operation.

In conclusion, we describe an extremely rare case of a patient with a sacrococcygeal mature teratoma with malignant transformation into an adenocarcinoma. Surgical resection was effective for both primary and metastatic inguinal node disease. In case of patients with mature teratoma who opt for non-surgical treatment, fairly frequent follow-up is recommended.

REFERENCES

1. Kessler PJ, Back JL, Suarez ES. Germ cell tumors of the sacrococcygeal region: radiologic-pathologic correlation. Radiographics (1994) 14:667–20. doi:10.1148/radiographics.14.3.8066275
2. Wells RG, Styr JR. Imaging of sacrococcygeal germ cell tumors. Radiographics (1999) 19:701–13. doi:10.1148/radiographics.19.4.102416526
3. Wang LJ, Chu SH, NgKF, Weng YC. Adenocarcinomas arising from primary retroperitoneal mature teratomas: CT and MR imaging. Eur Radiol. (2002) 12:1546–9. doi:10.1007/s003300101105
4. Bellin MF, Duron JJ, Curet P, Dion-Voiron E, Grellet J. Primary retroperitoneal teratoma in the adult: correlation of MRI features with CT and pathology. Magy Res Imaging (1991) 9:263–6. doi:10.1016/0730-725X(91)90020-M
5. Engel RM, Elkins RC, Fletcher BD. Retroperitoneal teratoma. Review of the literature and presentation of an unusual case. Cancer (1968) 22:1088–73. doi:10.1002/1097-0248(196811)22:5<1088::AID-CNCR2820220525>3.0.CO;2-3
6. Dos Santos L, Mok E, Iasonos A, Park K, Soslow RA, Aghajanian C, et al. Sacrococcygeal cell carcinoma arising in mature cystic teratoma of the ovary: a case series and review of the literature. Gynecol Oncol (2007) 105:321–4. doi:10.1016/j.ygyno.2006.12.008
7. Ulker Y, Numanoglu C, Akbayir O, Akelsey A, Tunecel A, Akca A, et al. Malignant transformation arising from mature cystic teratoma of the ovary: a report of six cases. J Obstet Gynaecol Res (2012) 38:849–53. doi:10.1111/j.1447-0756.2011.01797.x
8. Sakuma M, Otsuki T, Yoshinaga K, Utsumoymia H, Nagase S, Takano T, et al. Malignant transformation arising from mature cystic teratoma of the ovary: a retrospective study of 20 cases. Int J Gynecol Cancer (2010) 20:766–71. doi:10.1111/j.1525-1965.2009.01589.x
9. Li GD, Chen K, Fu D, Ma XJ, Sun MX, Sun W, et al. Surgical strategy for presacral tumors: analysis of 33 cases. Chin Med J (2011) 124:4086–91. doi:10.3760/cma.j.issn.0366-6999.2011.23.044
10. Tulchinsky H, Toavar A, Gutman H. Adenocarcinoma within a paracoccygeal teratoma in an adult: report of a case. Surg Today (2005) 35:259–62. doi:10.1007/s00595-004-2013-3
11. Szyllk K, Lesnik N. Sacrococcygeal teratoma – case report and review of the literature. Ann J Case Rep (2013) 14:1–5. doi:10.12659/ACIR.883727
12. Donadio AC, Motzer RJ, Bajorin DF, Kantoff PW, Sheinfeld J, Houldsworth J, et al. Chemotherapy for teratoma with malignant transformation. J Clin Oncol (2003) 21:4285–91. doi:10.1200/JCO.2003.01.019
13. Hackerth A, Brueggemann D, Bohlmann MK, Franke FE, Tinneberg HR, Münstedt K. Squamous-cell carcinoma in mature cystic teratoma of the ovary: systematic review and analysis of published data. Lancet Oncol (2008) 9:1173–80. doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(08)70306-1
14. Marinjen CA, van de Velde CJ, Putter H, van den Brink M, Maas CP, Martijn H, et al. Impact of short-term preoperative radiotherapy on health-related quality of life and sexual functioning in primary rectal cancer: report of a multicenter randomized trial. J Clin Oncol (2005) 23:1847–58. doi:10.1200/JCO.2005.05.256
15. Peeters KC, van de Velde CJ, Leer JW, Martijn H, Junggeburt JM, Kranenburg EK, et al. Late side effects of short-course preoperative radiotherapy combined with total mesorectal excision for rectal cancer: increased bowel dysfunction in irradiated patients – a Dutch colorectal cancer group study. J Clin Oncol (2005) 23:6199–206. doi:10.1200/JCO.2005.14.779
16. Wright JD, St Clair CM, Deutsch I, Burke WM, Gorrochurn P, Sun X, et al. Pelvic radiotherapy and the risk of secondary leukemia and multiple myeloma. Cancer (2010) 116:2486–92. doi:10.1002/cncr.25067

17. Lengele B, Scalliet P. Anatomical bases for the radiological delineation of lymph node areas. Part III: pelvis and lower limbs. Radiother Oncol (2009) 92:22–33. doi:10.1016/j.radonc.2008.11.007

18. Hamano T, Homma Y, Otsuki Y, Shimizu S, Kobayashi H, Kobayashi Y. Inguinal lymph node metastases are recognized with high frequency in rectal adenocarcinoma invading the dentate line. The histological features at the invasive front may predict inguinal lymph node metastasis. Colorectal Dis (2010) 12:e200–5. doi:10.1111/j.1463-1318.2009.02134.x

19. Yamaguchi K, Mandai M, Fukuhara K, Higuchi T, Hamanishi J, Takakura K, et al. Malignant transformation of mature cystic teratoma of the ovary including three cases occurring during follow-up period. Oncol Rep (2008) 19:705–11. doi:10.3892/opr.19.3.705

20. Chao TY, Nieh S, Huang SH, Lee WH. Cytology of fine needle aspirates of primary extragonadal germ cell tumors. Acta Cytol (1997) 41:497–503. doi:10.1159/000332545

**Conflict of Interest Statement:** 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.

Received: 01 April 2014; accepted: 06 May 2014; published online: 19 May 2014. Citation: Matsumoto N, Uehara K, Ando M, Arimoto J, Kato T, Nakamura H, Ebata T, Yokoyama Y and Nagino M (2014) Adenocarcinoma arising from sacrococcygeal mature teratoma in an adult female: report of a case. Front. Oncol. 4:117. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2014.00117

This article was submitted to Surgical Oncology, a section of the journal Frontiers in Oncology.

Copyright © 2014 Matsumoto, Uehara, Ando, Arimoto, Kato, Nakamura, Ebata, Yokoyama and Nagino. 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) or licensor 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.