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LEIOMYOMA OF THE BLADDER CAUSING BILATERAL HYDRONEPHROSIS: A CASE REPORT

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We report a case of bladder leiomyoma with marked bilateral hydronephrosis caused by chronic urinary retention. Surgical finding was that the mass was smooth, fist-sized and had a thin stalk connected to the bladder wall. The tumor was completely removed. Histopathological diagnosis was leiomyoma of the bladder and the post-operative course was uneventful.

Key words: Leiomyoma, Bladder

INTRODUCTION

Leiomyomas generally occur in female genital organs. The urinary bladder is rarely affected by them.

It is important to make correct pre-operative diagnosis by using various diagnostic methods because the prognosis is excellent when it is treated properly. We encountered a rare case of bladder leiomyoma with marked dilatation of the bilateral upper urinary tracts caused by chronic urinary retention.

CASE REPORT

A 65-year-old man was referred to our clinic with complaints of pollakisuria and gross hematuria. There was 650 ml of residual urine and the blood chemistry indicated renal failure. A balloon catheter was inserted in the bladder. A computerized tomography scan (C.T.) of the lesser pelvis, performed at the patient's former clinic, showed a fist-sized intravesical mass involving the posterior and left lateral wall of the bladder, protruding into the vesical cavity, as well as bilateral hydronephrosis (Fig. 1A, B). The patient's past history revealed that he had suffered from dysuria and gross hematuria 13 years ago, but they ceased with the use of internal medicine and injections.

The physical examination revealed negative finding. A transrectal examination revealed that the prostate was not enlarged. A blood count revealed orthochromic anemia with a hemoglobin level of 8.2 g/dl. Blood chemistry and renal function tests showed moderate renal failure. Prostatic acid phosphatase (PAP) was slightly elevated. Urinalysis showed pyuria but a urine culture was negative. Excretory urography showed severe dilatation of the right upper urinary tract and a left pyeloureterogram was not obtained (Fig. 2). Retrograde urethrography confirmed the presence of a large intravesical mass which was the size of a fist (Fig. 3A, B). A cystoscope could not pass through the bladder neck. Therefore, a punch biopsy was not preoperatively conducted. Urine cytology was class III. The clinical diagnosis was an intravesical mass and consent for surgery was obtained.

During the operation, a fist-sized pedunculated smooth mass was found in the bladder. It was connected to the posterior portion of the inner urethral orifice of the bladder wall by a thumb-sized stalk. The mass was found to be elastic, soft
and uniformly whitish in color. Bladder mucosa did not exist on the surface of

Fig. 1. (A) CT scan shows a fist-sized intravesical mass. (B) CT scan shows bilateral hydronephrosis.

Fig. 2. Excretory urography shows severe dilatation of the right upper urinary tract and left pyelouretrogram is not obtained.

Fig. 3. (A, B) Retrograde urethrography shows the presence of fist-sized, smooth intravesical mass.

do not exist on the surface of the tumor. It was concluded to be benign and tumor enucleation was performed. The gross specimen weighed 250 g. The cut surface was uniformly whitish in color and no findings were present to indicate malignancy.

Microscopically, the transitional cells were scarcely observed on the surface of the tumor. Chronic inflammation existed with marked proliferation of vessels at the tunica propria. A fascicular arrangement of the smooth muscle cells was seen. There was abundant stroma around these muscle cells at the submucosal area. Cytological atypia and mitotic figures were absent. Diagnosis was leiomyoma of the
bladder (Fig. 4).

Twenty months later the patient remains well and free of recurrence.

**DISCUSSION**

Nonepithelial bladder tumors are rare. They make up 0.3~5.0% of all bladder tumors. Leiomyoma is the most common, ranging from 20.0~35.2% of benign mesothelial bladder tumors and constitutes 0.2~0.5% of all bladder tumors. It is said to be more common in females, with a 3:1 distribution ratio. The highest incidence occurs in people between 30 and 50 years of age.

The tumors are categorized into three groups, endovesical, intramural, and extravesical. The endovesical form is the most frequent, occurring in 63% of all cases, followed by extravesical (30%) and intramural (7%). The weight has ranged from a few grams to as large as 9 kg.

Macroscopically, the tumor is roundish, has lumpy nodules and is whitish or shiny pink in color. The clinical symptoms and signs vary depending on the site and the size of the tumor. The endovesical forms may be sessile or pedunculated and covered by normal bladder mucosa. In our case the bladder mucosa was thought to have peeled off because of the large size of the tumor compared to the small size of its stalk. They may present vesical irritation, infection, gross hematuria or dysuria. Cases which showed urinary retention because of an obstruction of the bladder outlet have previously been reported, in addition our cases deals with such a condition. Extravesical forms usually remain asymptomatic for some time. They may be detected by physical examination, cystoscopy or incidentally in the midst of surgery done for other causes. Palpable masses or disorders due to the compression by the tumor may be the chief complaint when it grows to a certain size. Rare cases in which the tumor has prolapsed from the urethra have been reported.

The diagnostic means for detecting the tumors include cystoscopy, intravenous urography, cystourethrography, ultrasonography and computerized tomography (C.T.). In intravenous urography or cystourethrography, the bladder may show a filling defect but with a smooth outline. The existence of ulcerations or cystitis, however, results in an irregular mucosal surface. Urinary retention due to the obstruction of the bladder outlet by the tumor. Ultrasonography and C.T. are useful in determining the consistency, size, location and relationship of the tumor with adjacent organs. The final diagnosis is made by histological examination.

The principle of the treatment is complete resection of the tumor. Small endovesical tumors can be removed well with transurethral resection. Large endovesical, intramural or extravesical tumors are best managed by open surgery, such as enucleation or partial cystectomy. Ureteral reimplantation may sometimes be necessary.

The prognosis is excellent if the tumor is completely removed. In open surgery, thorough palpation of the vesical wall is imperative in order not to overlook small
nodules\textsuperscript{5}). Lake et al have reported the only case of recurrence after the enucleation of the tumor\textsuperscript{13}. No malignant degeneration has been reported\textsuperscript{18}.

REFERENCES


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