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Kyoto University
INVERTED PAPILLOMA OF THE RENAL PELVIS ASSOCIATED WITH RENAL CELL CARCINOMA: A CASE REPORT

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Twenty-one cases of inverted papilloma of the renal pelvis have been described in the literature. A 71-year-old man was admitted to our hospital to examine a right renal mass. We diagnosed a right renal tumor on the basis of the findings from excretory urogram (IVP), computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Surgical material revealed an inverted papilloma in the renal pelvis. We report on the first case of an invested papilloma of the renal pelvis associated with renal cell carcinoma.


Key words: Inverted papilloma, Renal pelvis, Renal cell carcinoma

INTRODUCTION

Since Potts17 reported the first case of an inverted papilloma of the urinary bladder, more than 200 cases have been reported. Mainly, inverted papilloma occurs in the region of the urinary trigone, bladder neck and prostatic urethra. They have been rarely found in the upper urinary tract. Inverted papilloma is recognized as a benign tumor, because only 2 cases of recurrence have been recorded2,3). However, a few cases revealed malignant formation4,5) and the coexistence of transitional cell carcinoma6,8-12. We report a case of an inverted papilloma of the renal pelvis associated with renal cell carcinoma.

CASE REPORT

A 71-year-old man was admitted to our hospital for examination of a renal mass that was incidentally discovered by ultrasonography (US) during screening of the upper abdomen. The patient had no other urological symptoms. US demonstrated a low echoic lesion of the right kidney. Cystoscopy showed a normal urothelium. IVP revealed distortion of the right renal pelvis. CT scan demonstrated a mass in the upper portion of the right kidney, and this was again demonstrated by MRI. Selective arteriography showed a marked neovascularity in the identical portion of the kidney as mentioned above we diagnosed a right renal tumor.

Right nephrectomy was performed in September, 1989. The weight of the right kidney was 530 g and the size was 15.0×10.0×6.5 cm. There were two distinct tumors in the upper portion of the kidney, which measured 4.0×5.0×3.0 cm and 3.5×4.0×3.0 cm. Another grey-colored solid tumor, 4.0×2.5×1.0 cm, was observed in the renal pelvis (Fig. 1). Histological slides with hematoxylin-eosin staining demonstrated that both renal tumors in the upper portion of the kidney were occupied by cells having a clear cytoplasm and small nucleus. Pathological diagnosis was a renal cell carcinoma, pT2N0M0. Pathological diagnosis of the renal pelvic tumor was an inverted papilloma demonstrating conservation of the epithelial cells, seven or eight layers of cells with no cellular dysplasia (Fig. 2).

The postoperative course was without any complications, and the patient has been receiving medication with anti-cancer drugs. Follow-up observation for 21 months has shown no evidence of recurrence.
Fig. 1. Gross specimen shows two yellowish tumors of the upper portion and a grey-colored tumor of the renal pelvis (arrows).

Fig. 2. Microscopic examinations show typical features of inverted papilloma (right. H&E, x25), and renal cell carcinoma with clear cytoplasm and small nucleus (left. H&E, x50).

DISCUSSION

More than fifty cases of inverted papilloma of the upper urinary tract have been reported previously. Since Martz reported the first case in 1974, 22 cases including ours have been identified in the renal pelvis. Most of them had gross hematuria with or without flank pain. Our case had no urological symptoms and the renal pelvic tumor was incidentally discovered at nephrectomy. An inverted papilloma of the renal pelvis is usually diagnosed after surgical treatment for a renal pelvic tumor. Therefore, 11 of the 22 the cases underwent nephroureterectomy. Six of the other cases had either nephrectomy or resection of the tumor. One was found at autopsy.

The nature of inverted papilloma is considered to be that of a benign tumor. However, even if a pelvic tumor can be examined by biopsy under ureteroscopy, it is difficult to conclude that the tumor is an inverted papilloma. A biopsy specimen alone is not sufficient for distinguishing an inverted papilloma from an inverted type transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) or a combination of an inverted papilloma and TCC. There have been two reports of recurrent inverted papilloma. In addition there have been nine cases of inverted papilloma with concomitant urothelial cancer. These cases had malignant urothelial lesions at sites independent from the inverted papilloma, but in four of them carcinomas also occurred in the same lesion as the inverted papilloma. In the present case, inverted papilloma of the renal pelvis seems to be associated with renal cell carcinoma by coincidence. In any event, until now there has been no report on the coexistence of an inverted papilloma of the renal pelvis and renal cell carcinomas.

Silverstein previously reported a patient with inverted papilloma of the left ureter after right nephrectomy for right renal cell carcinoma. Grainger demonstrated urothelial carcinoma in a portion of the ureteral inverted papilloma coexisting with a small renal cell carcinoma. We report the first case of an inverted papilloma of the renal pelvis associated with renal cell carcinoma.

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