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<th>RETICULUM CELL SARCOMA OF THE FEMALE URETHRA: REPORT OF A CASE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>泌尿器科紀要 (1980), 26(5): 599-601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Date</td>
<td>1980-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2433/122639">http://hdl.handle.net/2433/122639</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Departmental Bulletin Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textversion</td>
<td>publisher</td>
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Kyoto University
Primary reticulum cell sarcoma of the urethra seen in an 83-year-old woman is described.

CASE REPORT

An 83-year-old woman complained of progressive dysuria for 3 months. She visited a gynecologist and was found to have a mass at the urethral meatus. Biopsy showed a neoplasm, possible malignant lymphoma, so she was referred and admitted to our hospital. An indwelling urethral catheter had been inserted to relieve her discomfort. Physical examination revealed a tumor 3 cm in diameter at the urethral meatus (Fig. 1). Superficial lymph nodes were not enlarged. Along the entire urethra induration was palpated. Gynecological examination including biopsy of the cervix revealed no abnormalities in the genital organs. There were no atypical lymphocytes in the peripheral blood. Chest tomograms and pedal lymphograms were normal. Excretory urography and cystoscopy were scheduled but progressive debilitation and episodes of fever made them impossible. On the 14th hospital day, she complained of severe pain in the right lower abdomen. High temperature and progressive abdominal distension suggested generalized peritonitis probably due to perforation of the appendix, and an emergency laparotomy was performed under local anesthesia because of her poor general condition. The appendix was intact and the gastrointestinal tract was normal. Purulent discharge was found originating from the ruptured uterine fundus. Hysterectomy could not be performed because of the poor condition of the patient. Part of the uterine wall was resected for examination, and the ruptured site was closed. During operation the paraaortic and mesenteric regions were examined, but there were no enlarged nodes. The postoperative course was downhill, and she died of pneumonia. Postmortem examination was refused.

Microscopic sections from the urethral tumor revealed reticulum cell sarcoma (Fig. 2 A and 2 B). A specimen from the uterine wall revealed inflammatory changes.

DISCUSSION

Malignant lymphoma of the female urethra, whether primary or secondary, is very rare, and only a few cases have been reported1,2,3,4). In autopsy cases of malignant lymphoma Watson5) reported only one case of urethral involvement out of 456 cases and Richmond6) reported no urethral involvement in a series of 703 cases. These incidences show that the urethra is rarely the seat of a metastasis or of neoplastic infiltration.

As a postmortem study was refused, definite proof of the primary occurrence
Fig. 1. A tumor at the urethral meatus.

Fig. 2 A. A homogeneous distribution of round or polygonal tumor cells. Pleomorphism of a mild degree is noticed.

Fig. 2 B. Higher magnification of the same specimen. The tumor tissue is composed of round to polygonal cells without special arrangement. The cytoplasm of the tumor cells is abundant and vacuolated. The nucleus of the tumor cells is round to oval and has a fine or coarse nuclear network, with occasional distinct nucleoli.
in the urethra could not be obtained in this case. Thus, the diagnosis of primary reticulum cell sarcoma of the urethra was made on the clinical evidence: normal chest tomograms, normal pedal lymphograms and normal lymphatic channels observed during laparotomy.

Peritonitis due to spontaneous rupture of pyometra is also rare. Senile atrophy of the uterus associated with closure of the cervical orifice might have caused pyometra following biopsy of the cervix. Increased intrauterine pressure due to further accumulation of fluid might have given rise to rupture of the uterine fundus.

REFERENCES

(Accepted for publication November 30, 1979)

和文抄録

女子 尿道線維肉腫の1例

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83歳の女子で尿薬困難を主訴として当科受診、外尿道口部に直径約3cmの腫瘤を認め、生検にて線維肉腫と判明。胸象X線写真およびリンパ管造影にて転移所見なし。入院後全身状態が悪化し、14日目にまたま右下腹部の激痛と腹部膨満を訴え、発熱と白血球増多を認めたため術中穿孔による汎発性腹膜炎の疑いで開腹術を施行した。亀甲および上部消化管に異常なく子宮嚢・中央部より膣蓋が腹膜腔内に露出するが認められ、子宮嚢・穿孔による腹膜炎の診断のうえとに、同部を切除縫合し腹膜腔内にドレーンを設置し手術を終えた。術中、傍大動脈および腸間膜リンパ節を観察する機会が与えられたが、とくに異常を認めなかった。術後経過は悪く、嘔下性肺炎のため死亡した。剖検はおこなわれなかった。

女子尿道の悪性リンパ腫症例の報告は原発性にしろ転移性にしろ非常に少ない。われわれの症例は剖検できなかったので、厳密にいうと臨床検査や手術時観察の到達しうる以外の部位に原発腫が絶無であるとはいえないと考えられるが、臨床所見からすると、あきらかに原発性線維肉腫症例と考えられる。

本文の要旨は第87回日本泌尿器科学会関西地方会にて発表した。