CASE REPORT

Leiomyoma of the epididymis

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Abstract

Neoplasms of the epididymis are distinguished into benign and malignant, are very rare and are frequently diagnosed as benign neoplasms. Leiomyomas are benign tumors that may arise from any structure or organ containing smooth muscle fibers.

Introduction

The majority of the leiomyomas in the genitourinary system has been detected in the renal capsule but leiomyomas are also reported to have been found in the epididymis, the seminiferous cord and the tunica albuginea. The ultrasonography is an imaging technique for the assessment of the scrotum’s pathology; however, the ultrasonographic depiction of leiomyomas emerging from the tunica albuginea has been rarely reported.

Case report

A 68-year-old male patient presented to the Department of Urology with deterioration of his scrotum swelling. The swelling, noticed by the patient himself approximately 2 years earlier, was painless, exhibited gradual enlargement and was occasionally accompanied by a mild discomfort in the ipsilateral groin area. The patient’s personal history was free.

The clinical examination revealed induration of the right testis and oedema in its lower pole at the tail of the right epididymis. The performed blood and biochemical investigation showed no pathological findings. The b-HCG, a-fetoprotein and LDH were negative. The ultrasound imaging of the scrotum revealed an oval-shaped mass of inhomogenous composition measuring 3 cm in diameter with localized necrosis in the lower pole – a finding compatible with neolesion at the tail of the epididymis.

Also, the ultrasound examination depicted presence of ipsilateral hydrocele. Our patient was subjected to resection of the right epididymis lesion. The patient’s post-operative recovery and hospitalization had no particular problems.

Macroscopically, the histopathological study showed a whitish solid elastic tumor measuring approximately 4 cm in diameter; microscopically, the study revealed a tumor composed of smooth muscle fibers.

Discussion

The review of the American and European literature shows that the leiomyoma is the second most common neoplasia of the epididymis representing 6% of its primary tumors.

In 1972, Albert και Mininberg reported the first case of leiomyoma in the scrotum. The literature contains 17 cases reported in the past. The 5th decade (40 to 49 years old) is the characteristic

Key words
Leiomyoma, epididymis, testicle

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mostly shared among leiomyoma patients. The tumors in question progress particularly slowly.

Conclusion
Leiomyoma is a very rare neoplasia. It is very difficult

to form an accurate pre-operative diagnosis and for this reason the patient is usually referred to surgery for the investigation of the mass. The histological study is the only examination that can establish a safe diagnosis.

References