2018 Internship Project & Abstract - Ciera Danen

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Laparoscopic Removal of a Primary Retroperitoneal Mucinous Cystadenoma in a Woman with a History of Hirsutism

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Research area: Clinical Research

Background: Primary retroperitoneal mucinous cystadenomas (PRMC) are rare neoplasms with only 55 cases reported in the English literature, occurring predominantly in women. Definitive pre-operative diagnosis is difficult making surgical intervention a necessity due to their unknown malignant potential.

Methods: We present a case of PRMC in a 19-year-old patient incidentally discovered during a workup for hirsutism. Additionally, using the search terms 'primary', 'retroperitoneal', 'mucinous', and 'cystadenoma' in all fields, a comprehensive literature review was conducted using PubMed and Google Scholar.

Results: A 19-year-old female presented to her primary care provider with hirsutism, and incidentally was found to have a cystic mass during her radiological workup. A high laboratory value of Dehydroepiandrosterone Sulfate was also noted pre-operatively but normalized postoperatively. Radiological measurements during an MRI measured the cyst at 5.8 x 3.9 x 5.8 cm. The patient was referred to surgical oncology where she underwent a laparoscopic cystectomy and had an uneventful recovery. Pathological diagnosis of the cyst was a PRMC. There was no appreciable decrease in the patient's hirsutism.

A review of English literature was conducted and revealed that this is the first known report of a patient who was diagnosed with hirsutism in addition to a PRMC. Additionally, a majority of patients presented with abdominal pain or other symptoms (83.9%) which differ from the symptoms observed in this case study. According to the review, our patient was the tenth to have a successful laparoscopic cystectomy, which supports that laparoscopic resection of these lesions is a safe option. She is also younger than the median age of 36 years and is the third youngest patient to be diagnosed with a PRMC.

Conclusions: To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case report of a PRMC and elevated levels of androgens in conjunction with polycystic ovarian syndrome in the English literature.