Retroperitoneal Teratoma Mimicking Renal Calculus

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A 16-year-old female with no prior health problem presented to us with complaint of pain in left flank for the past six months. She described the pain as intermittent, non radiating. No significant surgical or medical history was notified. On physical examination patient had soft abdomen, with no tenderness or palpable lump. Ultrasound (USG) revealed a heterogenous left upper polar cystic mass of 6×6 cm with a calculus at the end of cyst causing posterior acoustic shadow. A Contrast Enhanced Computerized Tomography (CECT) scan of the kidney, ureter and bladder revealed a cystic suspicious area with a shadow mimicking stone in upper pole moiety (at junction of bifid pelvis, Hounsfield Unit-118) [Table/Fig-1a,b]. The left adrenal gland not identified separately. Patient on evaluation was found to be non hypertensive, since mass was present in supra renal area plasma levels of aldosterone, cortisol, catecholamines, rennin, and adrenocorticotropic hormone were done which were found to be within the normal range. As per history and imaging study initially provisional diagnosis was of bifid pelvis with obstructed upper polar pelvicalyceal system by a calculus and a differential diagnosis of a nonfunctional adrenal mass with calcification or a retroperitoneal mass. Keeping these possibilities in mind open surgery was planned. Intraoperative mass was found to be adhering to the surrounding structures just lateral to inferior vena cava. Thick cheesy material came from mass [Table/Fig-2]. Carefully mass was dissected and removed. On histopathology, various sweat gland, sebaceous gland, cartilaginous structure was found [Table/Fig-3]. Till the write up of this case, patient visited us twice in 12 month interval without any signs of recurrence.



[Table/Fig-1]: CECT scan of the kidney, ureter and bladder revealed a cystic mass found over the upper pole of right kidney having a hyperdense area near renal pelvis. (white arrows).

Teratomas are classified as mature and immature forms, immature teratomas are made up of more than one germ cell layers these lesions arise from pleuripotent malignant precursor cells [1]. The most common site for origin of teratomas is sacrococygeal region followed by ovary (29%). Retroperitoneal teratoma comprises 4% of all teratoma. It is most commonly found in younger population with female predominance [2]. Although there is no side predilection for retroperitoneal, but there are literature available which shows that the left side is more commonly involved [3]. In 50-60% cases of retroperitoneal teratomas calcification is present. However in this case site of calcification, presence of cyst and ipsilateral non visualization of adrenal gland has produced the entire diagnostic dilemma. In literature teratoma arising from kidney and adrenal

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Images in Medicine



[Table/Fig-2]: The mass showing thick cheesy material (characteristic feature of sebaceous gland).



[Table/Fig-3]: Microscopic feature of mass matched with various tissues characterstics: A. Cartilaginous tissue, B. Sebaceous gland, C. Hair follicle and D. Adipose tissue [100X].

gland are rare [4-6]. Teratomas can be solid or cystic. Solid lesions are more commonly malignant and predominantly found in adults. Surgical excision followed by histopathological examination is the mode of choice for diagnosis and treatment of teratomas as they are chemo and radioresistant in nature [7]. Sometimes imaging study did not lead us to a concrete diagnosis in that scenario it is always better to go with open surgery with all possibilities in mind.

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