

Epididymal Leiomyadenomatoid Tumour: A Rare Case Report and Literature Review

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Abstract

Adenomatoid tumours are benign neoplasms of mesothelial origin that most often occur in the epididymis in men and the uterus or fallopian tubes in women. When the stromal smooth muscle component is prominent, the term leiomyadenomatoid tumour is recommended. To date, only 10 cases of epididymal leiomyadenomatoid tumour have been reported. In some cases, coagulation necrosis associated with worrisome regenerative changes can occur and leads to an increase in diagnostic pitfalls such as malignant neoplastic processes. Pathologists should be aware of this entity to avoid misdiagnosis. Herein, we present the eleventh case of epididymal leiomyadenomatoid tumour in a 59-year-old man.

Keywords: Adenomatoid tumour, smooth muscle, leiomyadenomatoid tumour, epididymis

Introduction

Adenomatoid tumours (ATs) are benign neoplasms of mesothelial origin that predominantly occur in the genital tract of men and women (1). They most often occur in the epididymis in men and the uterus or fallopian tubes in women (1). ATs are characterised by a minimally infiltrative proliferation consisting of tubular and gland-like spaces lined by flattened layer of neoplastic cells. Their collagenous stroma is often hyalinised, but admixed smooth muscle may also be present. The term leiomyadenomatoid tumour (LAT) is recommended when the smooth muscle component is prominent (2). Our literature review revealed 27 cases of LAT located in the epididymis and uterus or adnexa. Only ten of them were located in the epididymis (3-11). Herein, we present a rare case of epididymal LAT in a 59-year-old man and review the literature.

Case Report

A 59-year-old man presented to our clinic for testicular pain of 2 weeks duration. On physical examination, a mass of approximately 2 cm was found in his right scrotum. Doppler ultrasonography showed an intrascrotal solid lesion 19×18 mm in size within the right scrotal cavity, which had parenchymal

microcalcifications. The lesion was compressing the nearby parenchyma of the testis and exhibited peripheral vascularity. Ultrasonographic examination showed that the mass was extratesticular and intrascrotal. Tumour markers were normal (alpha-fetoprotein, 2.2 IU/mL; human chorionic gonadotropin, <0.200 MIU/mL; lactate dehydrogenase, 220 U/L). Thoracic and abdominopelvic computed tomography did not detect metastatic lesion preoperatively. The patient had hypertension and had undergone aortic surgery for aortic aneurysm, transurethral resection of the prostate and total thyroidectomy. Inguinal orchiectomy was performed since mass margins could not be clearly distinguished from the normal testicular tissue.

On macroscopic examination, a solid mass arising from the tail of the epididymis was found. The size of the mass was 1.7×1.5×1.3 cm. It was pushing toward the testicular tissue. The cut surface showed a greyish white whorled pattern. Other parenchymal areas were normal.

Microscopically, the lesion was well-circumscribed and had two components. The first component consisted of bundles of uniform, fusiform smooth muscle cells in a fascicular arrangement. Smooth muscle bundles were separated by the second component composed of cords, small nests or tubular-like structures lined by plump epithelioid cells with round

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nuclei, evident nucleoli and scanty, pale, eosinophilic cytoplasm (Figure 1). Mitotic figures were not observed. Additionally, there were scattered lymphoid aggregates in the stroma. Coagulation necrosis was seen at the centre of the lesion, and there was a hyalinised smooth muscle zone around the necrosis (Figure 2).

On immunohistochemical analysis, the cells in the smooth muscle component were positive for smooth muscle actin and desmin (Figure 3A). Epithelioid cells were positive for cytokeratin AE1/AE3, calretinin (Figure 3B) and Wilms tumour 1 (WT1) and negative for MOC-31, carcinoembryonic antigen, epithelial membrane antigen, prostate-specific antigen, NKX3.1, factor VIII, CD34 and BerEP4. The Ki-67 proliferation index was 3%. Informed consent was obtained from the patient.

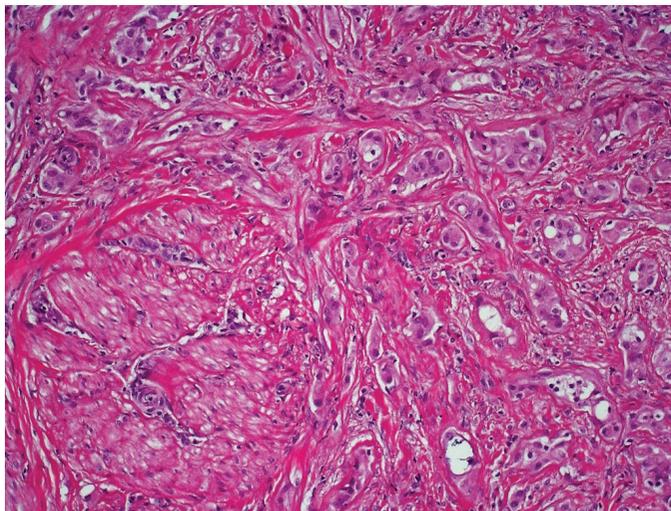


Figure 1. Smooth muscle bundles were separated by tubular structures lined by epithelioid cells with round nuclei and pale eosinophilic cytoplasm (haematoxylin and eosin staining, x200)

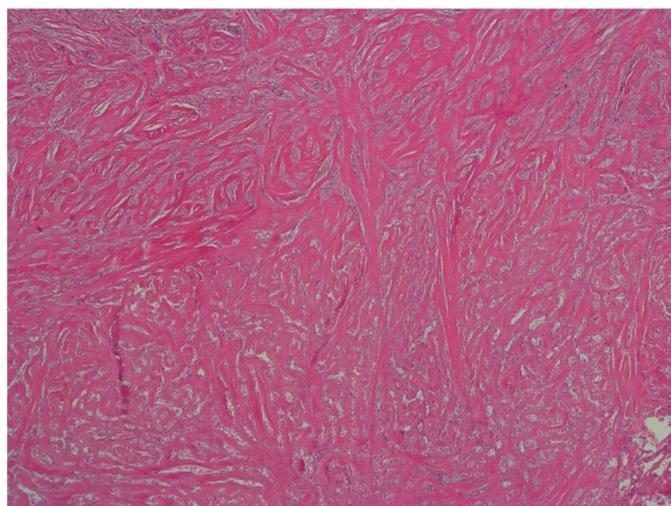


Figure 2. In the lower right corner of the field there was a necrotic region and a hyalinized smooth muscles around it (haematoxylin and eosin staining x100)

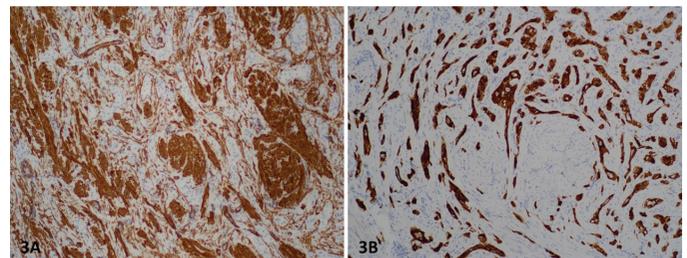


Figure 3A. Smooth muscle component showed expression for smooth muscle actin (x100), **3B.** The cells lining the tubular structures were positive for calretinin (x100)

Discussion

ATs are the second most common paratesticular neoplasia after lipoma, accounting for approximately 30% of all paratesticular neoplasms (12,13). They are the most common epididymal tumour and constitute 70% of all benign tumours (followed by leiomyoma and papillary cystadenoma, 11% and 9%, respectively) and 55% of all epididymal tumours (14). Most patients with AT present with a mass, but some cases are discovered incidentally on imaging studies indicated for other purposes. Epididymal ATs are between 0.4 and 5 cm in diameter, and most of them arise adjacent to the tail or head of the epididymis. Microscopically, ATs consist of irregular tubules lined with flat and cuboidal epithelioid cells. The stroma is often hyalinised and contains variable amounts of smooth muscle and elastic fibres. Lesions in which the smooth muscle component is prominent are called LAT, which was first used by Epstein in 1992 (2). These lesions have also been reported under different names such as adenomatoid leiomyoma, and adenomatoid tumor with leiomyomatous component (3,9).

To the best of our knowledge, 27 cases of LAT have been reported in the literature. Seventeen of them were located in the uterus or adnexa, and 10 were found in the epididymis. We report an additional case of LAT located in the epididymis. The clinicopathologic features of the cases of epididymal LAT are listed in Table 1.

The lesion diameter of the reported epididymal cases of LAT varied between 1 and 3.5 cm (mean, 2.25 cm), and the ages of the patients ranged from 28 to 76 (mean, 50.9) years. While most of the patients had painless mass (6 cases), some patients complained of pain (3 cases). In 6 of 10 patients, the tumour occurred in the tail of the epididymis. No recurrence was observed in any patient. One case exhibited coagulation necrosis, and three cases contained lenfoid aggregates (3,4,8,9). Lesional cells may exhibit mild to moderate cytological atypia (15). In our case, there was coagulation necrosis at the centre of the lesion. The cause of the necrosis was not fully clear. Larger tumour size may be related with necrosis (16), but in

Authors	Patient age (year)	Symptoms	Lesion diameter (cm)	Laterality	Localisation	Lenfoid aggregates	Necrosis	Radiological features
Wilson (3)	46	Painless lump	2	Left	Lower pole of the epididymis	+	NM*	NM
Romanelli and Sanna (4)	60	Painless swelling	2	Left	Body of the epididymis	+	NM	NM
Hoffmann et al. (5)	57	Painless lump	2	Left	Tail of the epididymis	NM	NM	US*: Sharply delimited mass that is more echo-rich than the testicular parenchyma
Kausch et al. (6)	63	Painful mass	3	Right	Tail of the epididymis	NM	NM	US: Combined hypodense and hyperdense mass Doppler US: Enhanced signals of the right rete testis when compared with the contralateral testis
Canpolat (7)	76	Painful swelling	3.5	Right	Tail of the epididymis	NM	-	US: Lobular mass showing echogenic areas
Cazorla et al. (8)	57	Painless mass	2.5	Right	Tail of the epididymis	NM	+	US: Solid, extra testicular, well-limited, heterogeneous and mainly hypoechogenic mass
Khan et al. (9)	39	Mass	2.2	Left	Tail of the epididymis	+	NM	US: Extratesticular swelling, with heterogenous echo pattern, no fluid and calcification
Wazwaz et al. (10)	33	Painless scrotal swelling	1.3	Left	Tail of the epididymis	NM	-	US: Well-defined heterogeneous, predominantly hypoechoic lesion with internal vascularity Scrotal MRI: Extra testicular solid mass with very low T2 signal intensity
Shehabeldin et al. (11)	28	Painless swelling	1	Right	Epididymis and rete testis	NM	-	US: 1-cm hypoechoic mass
	50	Scrotal swelling, with acute onset scrotal pain	3	Right	Epididymis, rete testis and testicular parenchyma	NM	-	US: 3-cm heterogeneous, exophytic mass situated at the superior pole of the testis
Present case	59	Testicular pain	1.7	Right	Tail of the epididymis	+	+	Doppler US: Intrascrotal solid lesion with microcalcifications US: Extratesticular and intrascrotal mass

US*: Ultrasonography, NM: Not mentioned, MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging

our case, the lesion was not large (1.7 cm in diameter). Lymphoid aggregates are commonly present in ATs of the male genital tract. Immunohistochemically, epithelioid cells of LATs are positive for pancytokeratin, CK7 and markers typical of mesothelial origin such as calretinin, podoplanin, WT1 and HBME1. The smooth muscle cell component is positive for smooth muscle actin and desmin.

Microscopic differential diagnoses primarily include leiomyoma, epithelioid haemangioendothelioma, malignant mesothelioma and malignant tumour infiltrating smooth muscle bundles. In some cases, the smooth muscle component may obscure the epithelioid (adenomatoid) component and results in the misdiagnosis of leiomyoma. However, this can be easily

resolved by detecting the adenomatoid component by careful microscopic examination. For the differential diagnosis with epithelioid haemangioendothelioma, the use of vascular markers such as CD34 and CD31 may lead to correct diagnosis; hence, ATs show negative staining for vascular markers. The presence of coagulation necrosis with associated worrisome regenerative changes can increase diagnostic pitfalls such as malignant neoplastic processes (mesothelioma and invasive carcinomas). In contrast to malignant neoplasms, LATs are usually small and well-circumscribed lesions. Furthermore, the relatively bland cytological features of LATs and the lack of definitive invasion into the adjacent tissues are helpful in this respect. When invasive carcinomas are suspected, immunohistochemical markers could point to the correct interpretation. Other entities to consider in the differential diagnoses include lymphangioma, Sertoli cell tumour, haemangioma and angiosarcoma.

The pathogenesis of LAT remains poorly understood. To date, several hypotheses have been considered on the pathogenesis of these tumours. First, LAT may be a variant of AT. Cazorla et al. (8) suggested that LAT should be considered a variant of AT that originated in precursor cells with dual differentiation, mesothelial and muscle cells. Second, LAT may represent a collision neoplasia consisting of leiomyoma and AT. Third, LAT may be the result of a common AT associated with reactive smooth muscle hyperplasia (17).

To date, none of the reported cases of LAT have shown recurrence or malignant degeneration. Therefore, the surgical removal of the tumour, without orchiectomy, is recommended in cases of epididymal LATs. Orchiectomy is performed only in cases with suspected malignancy. In the present case, inguinal orchiectomy was performed since the mass borders could not be clearly distinguished from the normal testicular tissue.

Conclusion

LATs are rare benign tumours reported in the epididymis in men and uterus and adnexa in women. Pathologists should be aware of this entity to avoid the undesirable results of the misdiagnosis.

Ethics

Informed Consent: Written informed consent was obtained from the patient to report this case study and publication of images.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Concept: F.Y., B.B.C., A.Ö., İ.Ü., M.F.A., Design: F.Y., B.B.C., A.Ö., İ.Ü., M.F.A., Data Collection or Processing: F.Y., A.Ö., M.F.A., Analysis or Interpretation: F.Y., A.Ö., İ.Ü., M.F.A., Literature Search: F.Y., B.B.C., M.F.A., Writing: F.Y., M.F.A.

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