Case Report

Pediatric Non-Functional Retroperitoneal Paraganglioma: A Rare Case Report

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Abstract

Extra-adrenal paragangliomas are uncommon neuroendocrine neoplasms with frequency 2-8 per million cases. They have an inclination to be malignant more than pheochromocytomas. Here we present a case of nonfunctional extra adrenal retroperitoneal paraganglioma occurring in 16-year-old male patient presented to with complaints of abdominal pain and heavens on the left hypochondria, CT scan revealed a retroperitoneal gross mass lesion measuring 114 × 99mm in the axial plane, extending from the upper quadrant level of the abdomen towards the inferior and containing necrotic areas in the central part. The mass was surgically removed successfully without intraoperative complications. Postoperative period was uneventful and patient discharged on day 7. Careful preoperative preparation and planning is mandatory as nature of tumor is endocrine tumor which secrete certain hormones and sudden rise or fall serum level of those hormones can result life threatening hypertension or hypotension. Full precaution must be taken to avoid these severe complications.

1. Introduction

Extra-adrenal paragangliomas are uncommon neuroendocrine neoplasms with frequency 2-8 per million
cases [1]. They emerge from neural peak cells and are composed of primarily of chromaffin cells found within the Para aortic sympathetic chain, they synthesize, store and discharge catecholamine’s [1]. Patient may present with headache, diaphoresis and palpitation and high blood pressure. On the other hand they may remain unnoticed, nonfunctional or nonspecific symptoms such as abdominal pain due to periodic release of catecholamine’s. Wen J, et al. Reported that histologically and immunochemically no difference between silent and functional tumors [2]. Essential strategies of preoperative determination include incorporate imaging procedures which guides surgical arranging and preoperative planning. Silent tumors often failed to detect preoperatively and present complications intraoperative. In 95% of the cases of extra-adrenal paragangliomas are located within the abdominal regions, but they will also occur within the head, neck and thoracic regions. McNicol AM. Reported that extra-adrenal paragangliomas have an inclination to be malignant more than pheochromocytomas [3]. There are few case reports regarding non-functional extra-adrenal paragangliomas; the literature is scarce for the early diagnosis and optimal preoperative and intraoperative management. This case report is aimed to highlight the clinical presentation, diagnosis and treatment outcomes of a case of non-functional extra-adrenal retroperitoneal paragangioma in 16-years male patient successfully managed with complete surgical resection.

2. Case Report
A 16-year-old male patient presented to pediatric surgery department with complaints of abdominal pain and heavens on the left hypochondria. There was no history of vomiting or altered bowel habits or previous history of similar attacks. The patient was not a known hypertensive and was not on any medication. Per abdominal examination revealed tenderness and a mass in the left hypochondriac region which did not move with respiration. Bowel sounds and rectal examination were normal, contrast ct scan revealed a retroperitoneal gross mass lesion measuring 114 × 99mm in the axial plane, extending from the upper quadrant level of the abdomen towards the inferior and containing necrotic areas in the central part, mass lesion extends to the mid abdomen, there is no calcification in it. There is heterogeneous contrast enhancement in post contrast images. The lesion is hypervascular Figure 1. Laboratory profiles were normal. Transverse left subcostal incision was undertaken for exploration. a retroperitoneal mass was found inferior to the renal vein on the left side of aorta occupying 2nd, 3rd and 4th lumbar vertebral levels. The tumour was adjacent tp the aorta. The ureter was pushed anteriorly while the inferior mesenteric vessels were pushed laterally. There was abundant direct vascular connection from aorta supplying the mass. The mass was found located ventral to the sympathetic and lymphatic chain. During dissection of the mass several veins brusted and ligated. With careful dissection the mass was completely resected (Figure 2).
Figure 1: Gross mass lesion measuring 114 × 99mm in the axial plane, with central necrosis.

Figure 2: Completely resected paraganglioma.

**Histopathological Findings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross examination</th>
<th>Tumor Site: Retro peritoneum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consistent cut surface prefer grey white centrally pinkish soft</td>
<td>Tumor Size: 13x10x7 cm</td>
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<td>with focal myxoid hemorrhagic changes.</td>
<td>Histologic Type: Paraganglioma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microscopy</td>
<td>Mitotic Rate: 3/10 HPF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procedure: Borderline resection</td>
<td>Necrosis: Present (&lt;5%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Histologic Grade: Intermediate Behavior</td>
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Margins: All margins negative for tumor but borderline appearance.
Lymphovascular Invasion: Not identified
Histopathologic diagnosis: retroperitoneal paraganglioma, intermittent behavior.

3. Discussion
Paragangliomas can develop anywhere along the midline of the retro peritoneum. The precise incidence of retroperitoneal paragangliomas is unknown, although male are typically affected more than females. Additionally most patients are diagnosed between 30 and 45 years old Masahiro Shibata. Reported A 24-year-old female presented to the regional hospital with complaints of hyperhidrosis and hypertension [4]. In the current case we report a case of non-functional extra-adrenal retroperitoneal paraganglioma in a 16-years male patient successfully managed with complete surgical resection. Clinically, patients with retroperitoneal paragangliomas often present with back pain or palpable mass. Conventional treatment for paragangliomas typically involves complete surgical excision, while surgical debunking is taken into account as mainstay of palliative therapy for malignant paragangliomas [2]. In some cases complete excision is sometimes not feasible due to highly vascular characteristics of the paragangliomas and their closeness to the major blood vessels. Abdominal paragangliomas are mostly located in the retro peritoneum, overall 85% of the extra-adrenal paragangliomas. The foremost common site of retroperitoneal paragangliomas occurs between origin of inferior mesenteric c artery and aortic bifurcation and it is known as organ of zuckerkandl. paraganglioma originating from the jugulotympanic body are called chemodectomas While paraganglioma arising from chemoreceptor are referred to as chemoreceptor tumors. Paragangliomas residing in the second part of the duodenum are called gangliocytic paraganglioma [5]. functional paragangliomas are diagnosed by its clinical presentation and laboratory results showing raised level of catecholamine’s and their byproduct within the urine and blood whereas nonfunctional paragangliomas are commonly found incidentally or present as mass with compression symptoms of the organ it compresses [6].

4. Conclusion
Extra adrenal retroperitoneal paragangliomas are uncommon neoplasms which pause difficult in diagnosis and treatment. However careful preoperative preparation and planning is mandatory as nature of tumor is endocrine tumor which secretes certain hormones and sudden rise or fall serum level of those hormones can result life threatening hypertension or hypotension. Full precaution must be taken to avoid these severe complications.

References
