

LEIOMYOSARCOMA OF THE TESTES

Atilla SEMERCİÖZ, İbrahim ÖZERCAN, M.Kemal ATİKELER, Orhan YALÇIN

Fatih R. YALÇINKAYA, Can BAYDINÇ

Fırat Üniversitesi, Tıp Fakültesi, ELAZIĞ / TÜRKİYE

Testisin Leiomyosarkomu

ÖZET

Leiomyosarkoma, testiste nadir görülen bir tümördür ve literatürde çok az vaka vardır. Sunulan vaka, sol testiste üç aydan beri ağrısız kitlesi olan 68 yaşında bir hastadır. Ultrasonografide heterojen yapılı bir kitle tespit edildi, tümör belirleyicileri normal bulundu. Yüksek inguinal kesi ile sol orşiektomi uygulandı.

Histopatolojik incelemede bir çok mitotik figure sahip İg şeklinde tümör hücreleri gözlemlendi. Vaka, çok nadir gözlenmesi nedeniyle sunulmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Leiomyosarkoma, testis

SUMMARY

Leiomyosarcoma is a rarely seen tumour and there are only few reports about painless swelling of testicle in the literature. In this case report, a 68 year old man admitted with a painless swelling of left testicle for the last three month. A heterogenous mass was determined by ultrasound examination, but tumor markers was found to be normal.

Left orchiectomy was performed by high inguinal incision. In histopathological examination, tumor cells in spindle shape with many mitotic figures were observed. This case report is presented since it is very rarely seen.

Key words: Leiomyosarcoma, testes

CASE REPORT

A 68-year old man with a three month history of a painless and swelling of the left testicle was admitted. The patient came to our clinic only after he began to feel pain in his testes. In the clinical examination, the left testicle was found to be in size of 20 by 15 cm (Figure 1). The scrotal skin had become thinner and bruised. Its vascularisation had increased. The inguinal nodes were non palpable. Transillumination was not present. Ultrasonographic examination revealed a heterogenous mass with hypoechoic and hyperechoic areas. The testicle tumor markers were found to be normal.

Left orchidectomy was carried out by making a high inguinal incision. Also, left scrotal excision was performed. The section of the testes showed an encapsulated mass with a 11 cm diameter (Figure 2).



Figure 1. Appearance of scrotal mass

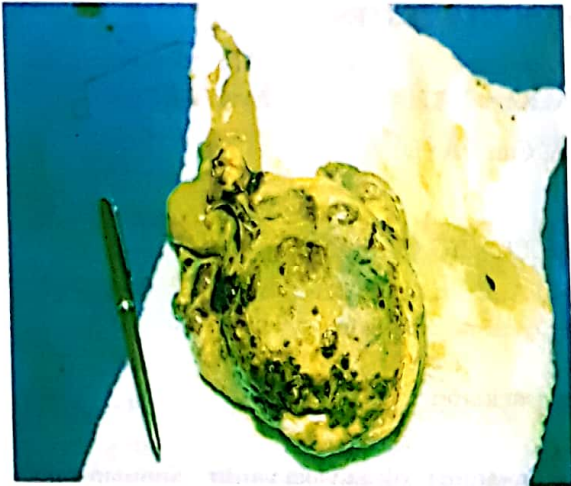


Figure 2. Appearance of surgically removed mass in histopathological examination (Figure 3),

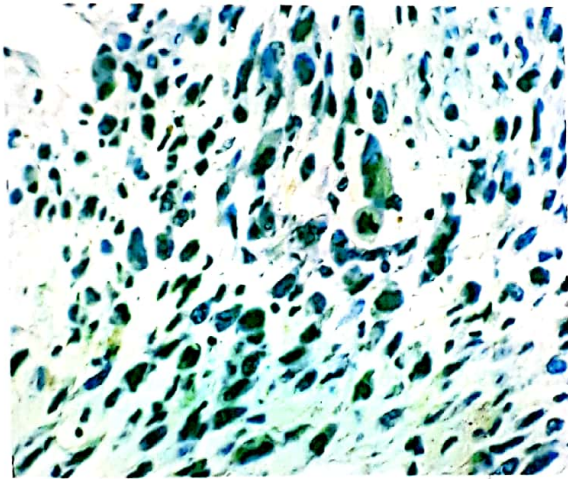


Figure 3. Appearance of pleomorphic cells and accompanied mitotic figures in testes leiomyosarcoma.

Tumor cells in spindle shape with many mitotic figures were observed. These findings confirmed the diagnosis of leiomyosarcoma. There was no lesion in the spermatic cord. He did not show local recurrence or distant metastases eight months after his surgical treatment.

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COMMENT

Leiomyosarcomas are very rarely seen. There have been very few reports on the testicular leiomyosarcomas in the available literature (1, 2). There are different concepts regarding the origin of leiomyosarcomas. Leiomyosarcomas are soft tissue cancers arising from smooth muscle cells of mesenchymal origin. Since the testes do not contain smooth muscle, Yachia and Auslaender (1) reported that the muscular layer of the testicular blood vessels could be the origin of the tumor. However, some investigators suggested that leiomyosarcomas can also develop from a pre-existing leiomyoma (3).

It is usually difficult to predict the biochemical behaviour of leiomyosarcomas from the microscopic examination of the tumor, however, an increase in the mitotic activity may be an important criterion of the malignancy (4).

Since there are only a few cases of leiomyosarcomas known, difficulties are present in the therapeutic approach. Because of the same reason, survival rates in these cases are not easily predicted. Inguinal orchiectomy and if necessary, lymphadenectomy are the recommended treatment methods of the testicular leiomyosarcomas (2). In the present case, the tumor was removed by inguinal orchiectomy after high ligation of the spermatic cord. The use of radiotherapy has been reported to be of little importance in these cases since this tumor is known as radio-resistant (5). However, application of radiotherapy in case of metastasis has been recommended (2). Although chemotherapy may be used in these cases, it is very difficult to evaluate its value because of small number of cases. It should be noted that this kind of tumors may have the same biological potential as sarcoms.

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