

An Unusual Presentation of Prostate Carcinoma

Abstract

Prostate carcinoma is the second most common cancer among men worldwide. Although prostate carcinoma is common, its presentation resembling retroperitoneal fibrosis is uncommon. We report a patient with prostate carcinoma mimicking retroperitoneal fibrosis. An elderly male presenting in a volume overload state with features of obstructive uropathy was diagnosed as a case of prostate carcinoma. Magnetic resonance imaging was suggestive of retroperitoneal fibrosis. The presentation of prostate carcinoma as retroperitoneal fibrosis is rare.

Keywords: Obstructive uropathy, prostate carcinoma, retroperitoneal fibrosis

Introduction

Retroperitoneal fibrosis is characterized by the extensive development of inflammatory fibrotic tissue in the retroperitoneum, leading to the compression and obstruction of the ureters and other adjacent organs. We report a patient with obstructive uropathy due to retroperitoneal fibrosis, diagnosed as a case of prostate carcinoma.

Case Report

A 67-year-old male presented bilateral pedal edema for 1 month, scrotal edema, and backache and reduced urine output for 15 days. He was a smoker, alcoholic, and a hypertensive for the past 6 years on irregular treatment. Examination showed pallor, bilateral pitting pedal edema, scrotal swelling, and edematous external genitalia. Per-rectal examination revealed hard prostate Grade II.

Complete blood count showed hemoglobin of 9 g/dl. Blood urea and serum creatinine were 135 mg/dl and 3.9 mg/dl, respectively. Serum sodium and potassium were 139 mEq/L and 5.1 mEq/L, respectively. Serum uric acid was 12 mg/dl. Liver function test, blood sugar, lipid profile, serum calcium, and phosphorous were normal. Serum protein electrophoresis, electrocardiogram, chest radiograph, and echocardiogram were normal. Ultrasound abdomen and pelvis showed bilateral hydroureteronephrosis.

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Plain computed tomography of the kidneys, ureters, and bladder (CT KUB) showed well-defined isodense circumferential thickening around the abdominal aorta below the level of superior mesenteric artery till bifurcation, bilateral hydroureteronephrosis, and isodense areas in the prevertebral region at level of L1, S5, features suggestive of retroperitoneal fibrosis [Figure 1].

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) abdomen and pelvis showed the medial deviation of ureters, multiple bone metastases and enlarged prostate, features consistent with retroperitoneal fibrosis, and metastatic prostatic malignancy [Figure 2]. Antinuclear antibody test was negative. Serum alkaline phosphatase was 267 IU/L. Prostate-specific antigen was found to be 905.6 ng/ml.

Trucut biopsy of the prostate was done which confirmed prostate adenocarcinoma, Gleason score 6/10 [Figure 3]. As the patient was not willing for any surgical intervention, he was treated conservatively.

Discussion

Retroperitoneal fibrosis is an uncommon fibrotic reaction in the retroperitoneum that typically presents with ureteral obstruction.^[1] Incidence is 1.38 cases per 100,000, and the mean age is approximately 64 years with male-to-female ratio of 3:1.^[2] Etiology includes idiopathic or Ormond's disease (70%); radiation; medications such as hydralazine and beta-blockers;

How to cite this article: Sadasivan G, Arul R, Prabakaran A. An unusual presentation of prostate carcinoma. Indian J Med Paediatr Oncol 2018;39:521-3.

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Access this article online

Website: www.ijmpo.org

DOI: 10.4103/ijmpo.ijmpo_37_17

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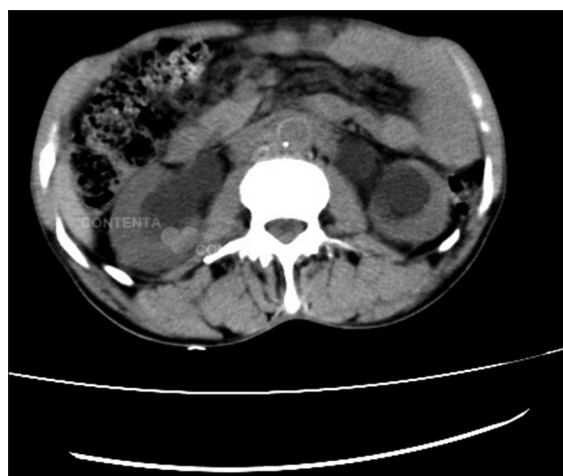


Figure 1: Plain computed tomography of kidneys, ureters, and bladder showing well-defined isodense circumferential thickening around the abdominal aorta below the level of superior mesenteric artery till bifurcation, bilateral hydronephrosis, isodense areas noted in prevertebral region at level of L1, S5, features suggestive of retroperitoneal fibrosis



Figure 2: Magnetic resonance imaging abdomen and pelvis showing medial deviation of ureters, multiple bone metastases and enlarged prostate, features consistent with retroperitoneal fibrosis, and metastatic prostatic malignancy

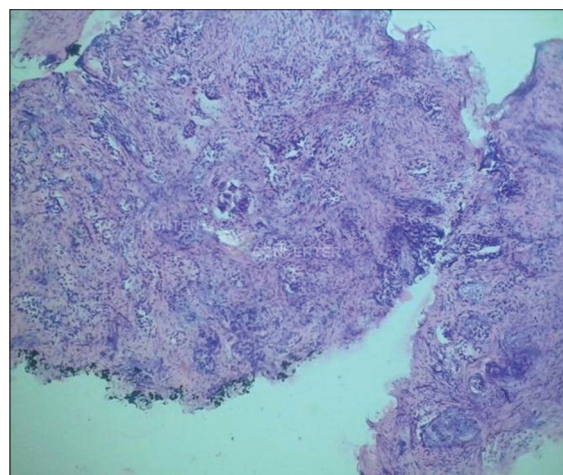


Figure 3: Histopathological analysis of the lesion showing prostate adenocarcinoma, Gleason score 6/10

inflammation such as pancreatitis and pyelonephritis; malignancies such as prostate, breast, and lymphoma carcinoma; asbestos exposure; and retroperitoneal bleeding.^[3,4]

Prostate carcinoma is the second most common cancer and cancer-related deaths among men worldwide. It is primarily a disease of an elderly male. In the United States, approximately 200,000 new cases are diagnosed each year and 95% are adenocarcinomas.^[5] It spreads by local invasion, lymphatic spread, or by hematogenous metastases.

Fibrosis begins around the aorta. Thinning of the media allows insoluble lipids such as ceroid, to leak into periaortic tissue, stimulating an immunologic reaction leading to fibrosis. Drugs such as beta-blockers may act as haptens leading to autoimmune reaction.

Signs and symptoms of retroperitoneal fibrosis are nonspecific.^[6] The most common symptom is poorly localized pain in the flank, back, and scrotum. Others include anemia, lower extremity edema, and urinary frequency.^[3,7,8] Our patient also presented with backache.

Most cases of prostate cancer are identified by screening in asymptomatic men. Symptoms occur only when locally advanced or metastatic and include urinary complaints and back pain.^[9]

CT in retroperitoneal fibrosis shows periaortic soft-tissue mass that envelops aorta and inferior vena cava between the renal hila and the sacral promontory.^[2,3,8] Pelvic extension and medial deviation of the ureters are common features in MRI.^[3,10]

CT scan detects enlarged pelvic and retroperitoneal lymph nodes, hydronephrosis, and osteoblastic metastasis in prostate carcinoma. MRI detects and localizes cancer when the prostate-specific antigen is persistently elevated despite negative biopsy.^[5,11,12]

In our patient, plain CT KUB showed well-defined isodense circumferential thickening around the abdominal aorta below the level of superior mesenteric artery, suggestive of retroperitoneal fibrosis. MRI abdomen and pelvis showed the medial deviation of ureters, multiple bone metastases and enlarged prostate, features consistent with retroperitoneal fibrosis, and metastatic prostatic malignancy.

Retroperitoneal fibrosis can be associated with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and sclerosing cholangitis.

The goal of treatment in retroperitoneal fibrosis is to relieve symptoms and to restore renal function. Surgical intervention includes ureterolysis and ureteric stent placement. Medications such as corticosteroids and immunosuppressive agents are curative in up to two-thirds of patients.^[13-15]

Treatment for localized prostate cancer is radical prostatectomy, radiation therapy, and androgen deprivation

therapy. Metastatic cancer is rarely curable. Our patient was treated with diuretics, antihypertensives, corticosteroids, and other supportive treatment as he was not willing for any surgical management.

Prognosis in retroperitoneal fibrosis is excellent (>90%). Median survival is 3–6 months in malignant fibrosis.^[3,15] Careful follow-up is mandatory since recurrences are often asymptomatic.^[8] Five-year survival is more than 99% with local prostate cancer and 28% with distant disease.

Conclusion

Retroperitoneal fibrosis is an unusual presentation of prostate carcinoma. Thus, a high index of suspicion is required to avoid prostate carcinoma being missed, delayed, or misdiagnosed as the patient may not have any prior history of prostate carcinoma, urinary symptoms, or prostate-specific antigen screening tests done before.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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