

An Unusual Case of Uterine Mass

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ABSTRACT

Uterine fibroids are the most common benign uterine tumors in women and the most frequent reason for performance of hysterectomy. Uterine sarcomas are however relatively rare tumors. with very low incidence, high malignant potential, poor prognosis and a difficult pre-operative diagnosis. This case is therefore being reported because of its rare presentation and at the same time the diagnostic dilemma faced focusing on the importance of histopathological correlation in further management of the case.

Keywords: Uterine mass, Sarcoma, Hysterectomy

INTRODUCTION

Uterine sarcomas are rare tumors (3% of all uterine malignancies) arising from mesenchymal tissues of uterus including both uterine muscle (Leiomyosarcomas or LMS) and endometrial stroma (Endometrial Stromal Sarcoma or ESS) of which ESS is the rarer type making only about 20% of the uterine sarcomas. ESS is the tumor of perimenopausal age group presenting at around 45-50 years of age which is rather early as compared to other uterine malignancies. Diagnosis can be made with an endometrial sampling however these are pre-operatively often misdiagnosed as uterine leiomyomas. Even with ultrasound and MRI techniques, preoperative diagnosis is difficult and is made with the histopathological follow up post operatively. We therefore report this case which was diagnosed as a uterine leiomyoma preoperatively and came out to be a Low-Grade ESS when followed up with histopathological report.

CASE REPORT

A 48-year-old P2L2 female presented to the OPD with complaint of heavy menstrual bleeding since last 1 year and irregular menstrual bleeding since last 3 months. On per abdomen examination a mass of 20-22 weeks size was palpated, nontender, hard in consistency, smooth regular margins and was mobile. On per speculum examination cervix was hypertrophied and vagina was healthy. On per vaginum examination uterus was found deviated to left side and mass was felt in right adnexa which was mobile with cervical motion. Patient was followed with ultrasonography and MRI pelvis. Her ultrasound showed a heterogenous hypochoic lesion of size 15.6 cm x 12.3 cm the uterus, right adnexa Her MRI pelvis was suggestive of degenerated

uterine fibroid or cystic adenomatoid tumor. A diagnosis of AUB-L was made and patient was prepared for laparotomy. She underwent Total Abdominal Hysterectomy with bilateral salpingoophorectomy. Uterus was found enlarged (UCL 14cm) [1-2]. On cut section it showed a posterior fundal fleshy mass protruding into endometrial cavity with multilocular cystic appearance with thick septations filled with serous fluid (**Figure 1**).

DISCUSSION

ESS is a rare uterine neoplasm comprising only 0.2% of all uterine malignancies and about 20% of uterine sarcomas occurring primarily in perimenopausal women. Most common presentation being abnormal uterine bleeding, abdominal pain and pressure symptoms. Pelvic examination usually reveals an enlarged uterus with regular or irregular margins sometime associated with rubbery parametrial induration. Low grade ESS is diagnosed histologically based on cellular atypia, mitotic activity and vascular invasion [2-4]. About 40% cases may have an extra uterine spread at presentation but an extra pelvis spread is rare. Mainstay of treatment remains total abdominal hysterectomy with bilateral salpingoophorectomy. Pelvic irradiation or hormonal therapy with progestins or aromatase inhibitors is

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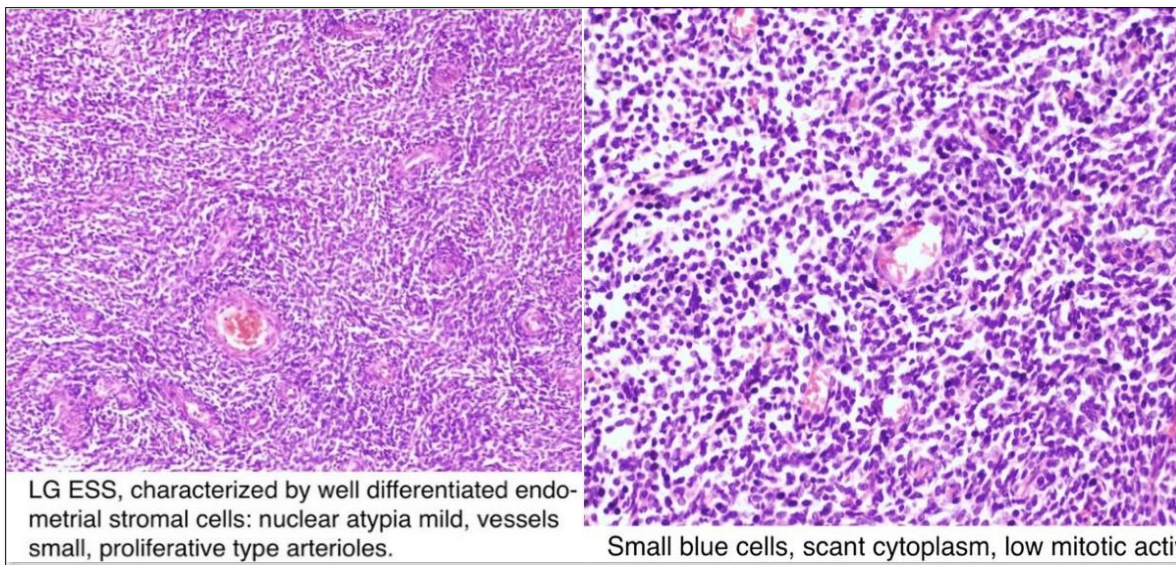
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recommended for inadequate excised or locally recurrent pelvic disease or metastatic disease. Sections from the fundal mass is showing small, oval darkly stained cells resembling endometrial stroma in sheets and small fascicles as well as scattered in small clusters surrounding blood vessels with

areas of hyalinization. The cells are seen streaming into myometrium to variable thickness. However, showing invasion into vascular channels. There is no mitosis. The tumor is extending till serosal surface however not beyond that (**Figure 2**).



Figure 1. Intra Operative Findings.



LG ESS, characterized by well differentiated endometrial stromal cells: nuclear atypia mild, vessels small, proliferative type arterioles.

Small blue cells, scant cytoplasm, low mitotic activity

Figure 2. Histopathology Report.

CONCLUSION

Low grade ESS is an extremely rare neoplasm with a very good prognosis. Post-operative diagnosis is difficult and is mostly made post operatively with histopathological

findings. These tumors are indolent in nature and local recurrences are common. Patient should be followed up with oncology. Recurrences and metastatic diseases yield response to treatment with hormonal therapy or pelvic irradiation.

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