Brenner tumour of the vagina

A-M H Rashid, H Fox

Abstract
Polyps of the vagina are rare and are either of inflammatory/reactive or neoplastic origin. A case of extraovarian Brenner tumour of the vagina in a postmenopausal woman, who presented with a vaginal polyp, is described. The polyp was excised and on histological examination, had the triphasic pattern (transitional, glandular and stromal) characteristic of Brenner tumour. The histogenesis of Brenner tumour is discussed in the context of this unusual location and the controversy of its origin.

KEYWORDS: Brenner tumour, vagina, histogenesis.

The Brenner tumour was first described by Fritz Brenner in 1907, who postulated that it was derived from the granulosa cells of the ovarian follicles. Apart from a few cases presenting outside the ovary, Brenner tumours are almost exclusively ovarian. Here, we report such a tumour arising in a vaginal polyp.

Case report
A 77 year old diabetic white woman presented with a few months history of vaginal irritation and soreness. On pelvic examination, there was a polyp, 2 cm in diameter, arising from the vaginal vault. No bleeding or signs of infection were noted. A simple polypectomy under local anaesthesia was carried out. Past medical history revealed that the patient had had a hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy for dysfunctional uterine bleeding 20 years before.

PATHOLOGY
The excised specimen consisted of a smooth surfaced polyp measuring 2 × 1.8 cm at maximum diameter. On sectioning, the cut surface was grey-yellow in colour and had small cystic areas. Microscopically, the polyp was covered by a slightly thickened vaginal mucosa. Embedded in the fibrocellular connective tissue core were numerous rounded solid islands and nests of uniform cells showing clear cytoplasm and oval shaped, grooved, nuclei reminiscent of transitional type epithelium (fig 1). Some of these islands had central lumina with a pink acellular secretion, whereas within others, occasional small glandular structures lined by simple columnar cells were noted (fig 2). The triphasic (transitional, glandular and stromal) appearance of this polyp is characteristic of Brenner tumour.

On review of the previous total hysterectomy specimen, there was no evidence of an ovarian Brenner tumour. The patient was followed for 18 months with no recurrence.

Discussion
Neoplasms of the vagina are uncommon. Both benign and malignant tumours are composed of pure or mixed epithelial or stromal elements. Most vaginal polyps are benign tumours of connective tissue origin—for example, fibroma, leiomyoma, nerve sheath tumours, haemangioma, and rhabdomyoma. Of the non-neoplastic polypoid lesions, fibroepithelial and inflammatory granulation polyps are the most common.

Extraovarian Brenner tumours are extremely rare. To date, they have been reported in the
Brenner tumour of the vagina

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1994;48:679-681
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Accepted for publication 26 September 1994

P-glycoprotein positive, drug resistant invasive lymphoepithelial thymoma: treatment response to chemotherapy with cyclosporin and quinine

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Abstract
A case of invasive drug resistant thymoma, expressing P-glycoprotein, which showed noticeable clinical response to chemotherapy and the multidrug resistance modulating agents cyclosporin and quinine is reported. A 46 year old man presented with severe left shoulder pain and a diagnosis of invasive lymphoepithelial thymoma was made following chest x-ray and a computed tomography scan. The patient underwent extensive chemotheraphy without resolution of the tumour. More than 90% of the malignant epithelial cells were strongly positive for P-glycoprotein and based on this observation, cyclosporin and quinine were added to the chemotherapy regimen. The mediastinal mass completely resolved and the size of the pleural metastasis decreased substantially. The patient, however, died of an intercurrent infection. This case report highlights the feasibility and efficacy of using cyclosporin and quinine in com-


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doi: 10.1136/jcp.48.7.678

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