00338 Squamous Cell Carcinoma Arising in a Retrorectal Cystic Hamartoma (Tailgut Cyst)

Tay Sei Kiat, Rafay Azhar

Singapore General Hospital

Aims: Retrorectal cystic hamartomas (RCHs) or tailgut cysts are uncommon entities. They are congenital lesions that arise from the remnants of embryonic postanal gut. The majority of RCHs are asymptomatic and can present at any age. Although they usually occur during middle-age and have a female predominance. Malignant transformation of RCHs is an exceedingly rare event but does occur. In this study, we report a case of a squamous cell carcinoma arising in a RCH.

Methodology: A 79-year-old Chinese female presented a right gluteal mass associated with bleeding and worsening pain. The mass started as a swelling 4 years ago in 2014 and has been gradually increasing in size. An MRI scan done in 2017 revealed imaging features suggestive of a RCH with extension to the right gluteal region, resulting in ulceration and fistula formation. An abdominoperineal resection was performed in early 2018.

Result: Histology of the specimen showed a moderately differentiated squamous cell carcinoma arising in a RCH. The tumour extends out to the right gluteal region and ulcerates the overlying skin. The skin and bowel resections margins were negative for malignancy. Interval CT imaging 3 months after the surgery revealed right inguinal lymphadenopathy with radiological features suspicious of metastasis. A right inguinal lymph node dissection was performed, and histology demonstrated lymph node involvement by the squamous cell carcinoma.

Conclusion: RCHs are benign lesions and they can be lined by a wide range of epithelia. Most remain asymptomatic and are discovered incidentally, while some present with compressive effects or complications. Tumours arising in RCHs are rare and diverse. Besides squamous cell carcinoma, other reported cases in literature include adenocarcinoma, adenosquamous carcinoma, transitional cell carcinoma, endometrioid carcinoma, neuroendocrine carcinomas, carcinoid tumours and sarcomas, the most common of these being adenocarcinoma and carcinoid tumours.