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Case report

Fallopian tube endometrioid carcinoma

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Abstract

Background: Carcinoma of the fallopian tube is extremely uncommon neoplasm, accounting for only 0.3% of gynecologic cancers.

Case: A 17-year-old female patient presented with clinical symptoms of right side deep pelvic pain. Ultrasound examination reveals right adenxal mass with breakdown suggesting neoplastic lesion or tubo-ovarian abscess. She was diagnosed clinically as tubo-ovarian mass for histopathological verification of its nature and prepared for surgery. There was a large soft tissue lesion arising in the middle of the right fallopian tube. Histopathological analysis of the specimen revealed neoplastic growth formed of malignant glands and acini of endometrioid pattern.

Conclusion: Most tubal endometrioid carcinomas resemble the endometrial counterpart histologically. Involvement of tubal serosa, of the ovary or corpus uteri or other pelvic and abdominal structures indicate a poor prognosis.

Key Words*: Endometrial carcinoma, Fallopian tube, Gynecological cancers.*

Introduction

Carcinoma of the fallopian tube is extremely uncommon neoplasm, accounting for only 0.3% of gynecologic cancer(1), but this figure may be low because carcinomas of uncertain origin involving both the ovary and the tube are generally classified as ovarian in view of their much higher overall frequency. In support of a higher frequency of tubal carcinoma than the figure just cited is a screening study using CA-125 assays that detected one tubal carcinoma for every six ovarian carcinomas (2-4).

Case Report

A 17-year-old female patient presented with clinical symptoms of right side deep pelvic pain and recurrent attacks of lower abdominal colic with a history of intermittent, profuse, watery, and clear to turbid yellow vaginal discharge over duration of six months. Routine hematological and biochemical investigations were performed for her but the results were within the normal limits. Ultrasound examination reveals right adenxal mass with breakdown suggesting neoplastic lesion or tubo-ovarian abscess. She was diagnosed clinically as tubo-ovarian mass for histopathological verification of its nature and prepared for surgery. The surprise was in that, the ovary was completely free from any pathological lesion but there was a large soft tissue lesion arising in the middle of the right fallopian tube. The tube was excised and sent for the pathology department. The patient was discharged on the next week. The pathology results revealed a large fusiform swelling which measured 12x9x7 cm in dimensions arising from middle third of the fallopian tube; leaving both the fimbrial and the uterine ends unaffected grossly (Figure I). On cut section, we found the lesion completely obstructing the lumen of the tube and appearing as a single solid mass distending and infiltrating the wall at the affected part of the tube. The tumor tissue varied in color from tan to yellow to white in cut section and firm in consistency; in

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general. The external surface was smooth; glistening and not penetrated the serosal surface of the tube but shows many congested blood vessels.

Histopathological analysis of the specimen revealed neoplastic growth formed of malignant glands and acini of endometrioid pattern (Figure 2) similar to the uterine counter part in slides prepared from the tumor area. The tumor also showed other morphological patterns as it contained solid areas and papillary foci (Figure 3) in other places, but no necrosis could be detected although serial sectioning of the specimen was achieved. The fimbrial end (Figure 4), ampullary region (Figure 5) and the uterine end were completely free from tumor invasion.

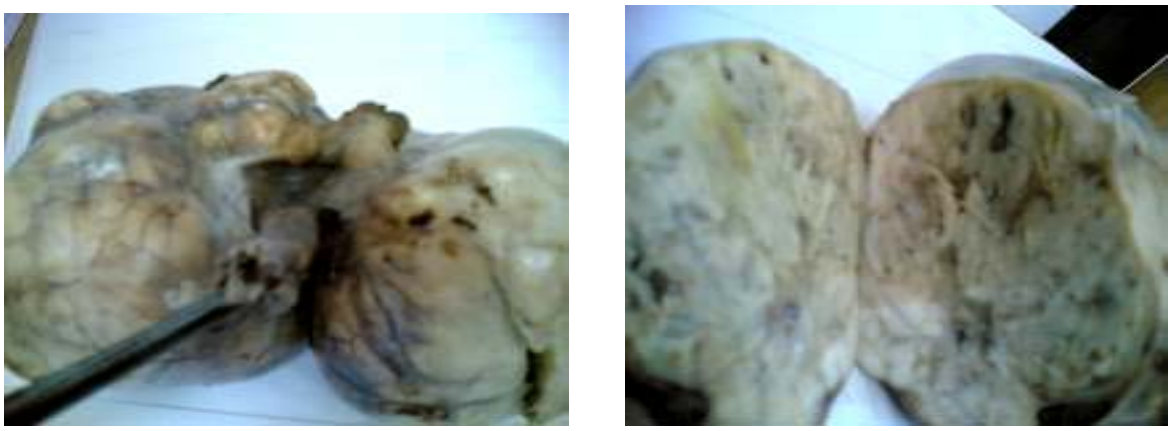


Figure1. A; the external surface of the tumor with residual parts of the fimbrial and uterine ends. B; the appearance of the cut section of the tumor

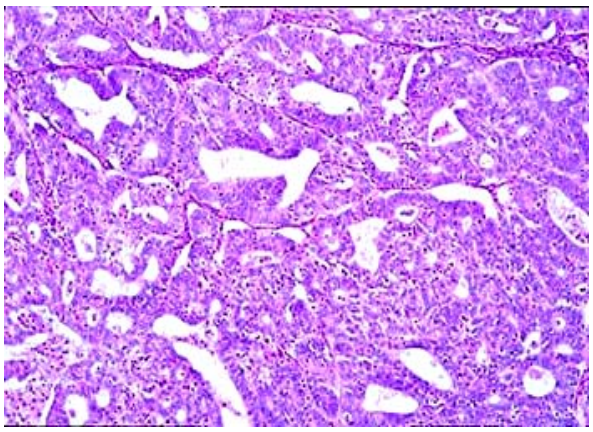


Figure2. Follapian Tube Endometrioid Adenocarcinoma; note the large pleomorphoic nuclei within the highly back-to-back glands (H&E x100)

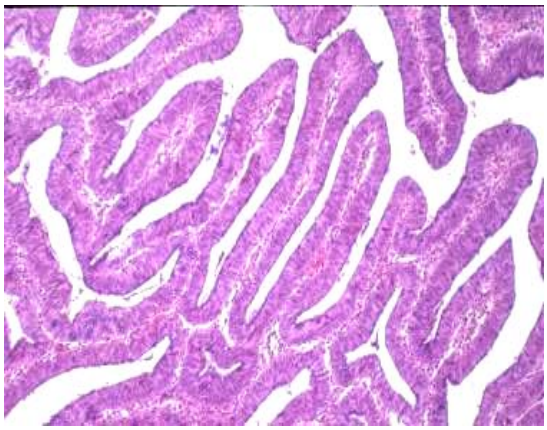


Figure3. Fallopian Tube Endometrioid Adenocarcinoma; note the papillae that is closely similar to their uterine counter part (H&E x200)

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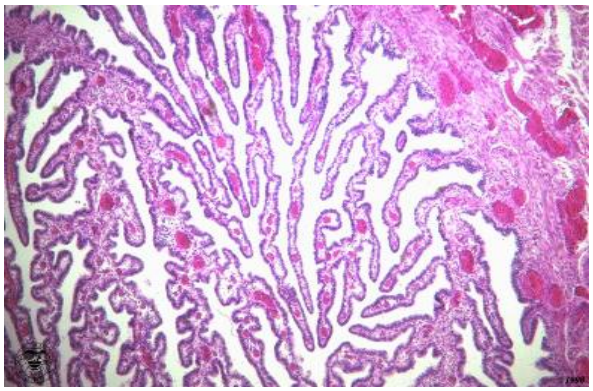


Figure4. Normal fimbrial end of residual Fallopian Tube (H&E x 40)

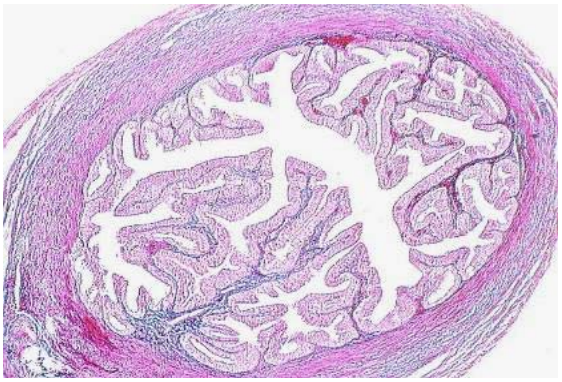


Figure5. Ampullary region of residual Fallopian Tube (H& E x 40)

Discussion

The classic complaint of intermittent, profuse, watery, clear to turbid yellow vaginal discharge accompanied by colicky abdominal pain and followed by decrease in the size of the abdominal mass (hydrops tubae profluens) is encountered in only a minority of the cases (less than 10%).The diagnosis is usually unsuspected preoperatively (5,6). A rare case of carcinoma in situ of fallopian tube has been reported after tamoxafen therapy (5). On the bases of the cases reported in the literature, about 50% of tubal carcinomas are serous, about one-quarter endometrioid, one-fifth transitional or undifferentiated and the remainders are other epithelial types (6,7). Endometrioid carcinoma which is the second commonest subtype of tubal carcinoma is important to recognize because it carries the best prognosis of tubal cancers (6, 7).

Most tubal endometrioid carcinomas resemble the endometrial counterpart histologically and it may be associated with endometriosis, squamous metaplasia or prominent spindle epithelial cell component but this should not lead to mis-diagnosis as carcinosarcoma (7, 8). Involvement of tubal serosa, of the ovary or corpus uteri or other pelvic and abdominal structures indicates a poor prognosis (8- 10).

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