

A Giant Abdominal Cyst in an Adolescent

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ABSTRACT

We presented images of MRI and intra-operative findings about an interesting case included in differential diagnoses of giant abdominal cysts in pediatric age.

The importance of this report is the rarity of the case, as well as the images reported.

A 17-year-old female patient presented to our hospital due to the appearance of abdominal mass associated with a 4-month history of low back pain. On physical examination a large, non-painful abdominal mass was evident.

No alterations were reported from the laboratory tests and tumor markers were normal.

Magnetic resonance imaging showed a voluminous abdominal-pelvic cystic mass with thin walls and liquid content, with a fine internal septum, compatible with a mesenteric cyst or an ovarian cyst.

Surgery performed: through a small umbilical incision, the cyst was punctured and approximately 3 liters of clear fluid was aspirated, avoiding intraperitoneal spillage. This allowed the cyst to be defined as a left ovarian cyst and cystectomy was performed.

Through the umbilical incision, an exploratory laparoscopy allowed visualization of a right tubal cyst and cystectomy was performed. Cytologic examination of the cyst fluid was negative and anatomopathological examination confirmed the diagnosis of ovarian serous cystadenoma and paratubal cyst.

At 6-month follow-up, the patient was asymptomatic and showed no signs of recurrence.

Giant abdominal cysts in pediatric age are usually benign masses and the differential diagnosis should consider mesenteric cysts,

ovarian cysts and omental cysts [1]. Pediatric giant ovarian cysts are rare and most of the cases benign. They may give symptoms related to compression of adjacent structures (bowel or urinary obstruction) or acute symptoms in the case of ovarian torsion. Despite being giant cysts, minimally invasive surgery and conservative treatment is mandated [2,3].

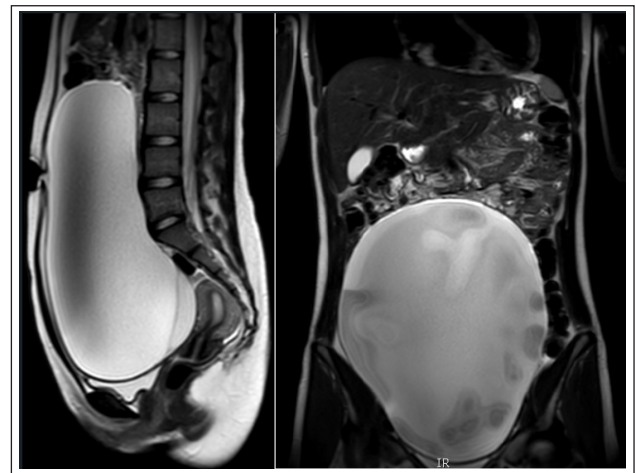


Figure 1: Abdominal MRI scan - coronal and sagittal sections

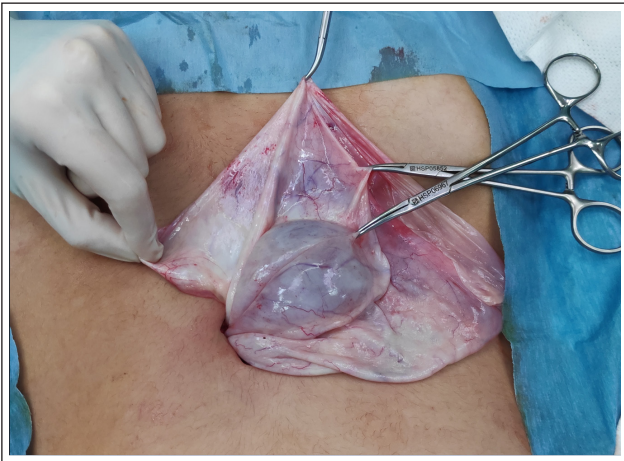


Figure 2: Intra-operative finding: giant ovarian cyst during the cystectomy

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