Case study

A Huge Liposarcoma: Case Study

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Abstract

A 53-year-old had complaints of vague abdominal pain for the past few months. Patient had a history of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and iron deficiency. The pain was aching, mild, intermittent, non-radiating, and generalized. An ultrasound of the abdomen, CT scan and MRI were recommended. After initial examination and reports, the patient was diagnosed with a retroperitoneal tumor. The liposarcoma found was dedifferentiated, high grade, and retroperitoneal. The tumor extended to the inked resection margin, and was large, with 24 cm and 14 cm in greatest dimension measurements. The liposarcoma was lipomatous and solid, with hot spots of mitosis. In terms of treatment, surgery was recommended to remove the enlarged mass. After surgery, two heterologous fragments were received from the retroperitoneal area by marginal resection. The mass was a huge grade 3 liposarcoma with mitotic rate of > 20 mitoses per 10 high-power fields (HPF). The examination and diagnosis included some special studies such as immunohistochemistry assay, which was positive for p16, vimentin, and MDM2. A post-operative scan showed that there was no evidence of recurrence or residual retroperitoneal tumour. Chemotherapy was initiated by the Oncology Department.

Keywords: Liposarcoma, retroperitoneal, lipomatous, mitosis

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INTRODUCTION

Heterogenous solid tumors originating from mesenchymal are called sarcomas. They have various clinicopathologic subtypes, but they are mainly classified into two forms: primary bone sarcoma and soft tissue sarcoma.[1]

A liposarcoma is a soft tissue sarcoma. Malignant tumors with highly differentiated adipocytes are known as liposarcomas. There are four types of liposarcomas:[2]

1. Dedifferentiated liposarcoma
2. Well differentiated liposarcoma
3. Pleomorphic liposarcoma
4. Myxoid/round cell liposarcoma

Liposarcomas, being the most common kind of soft tissue sarcomas, account for about 20% of all known cases. Among them, retroperitoneal account for 50%, while extremity soft tissue sarcomas are 25%. [3]

A liposarcoma is a rare heterogeneous tumor. Usually, it is painless and enlarging mass, but compression caused by the mass can cause pain or neuropathy. It occurs in fats and can be present in any part of body, but most commonly occur in limb muscles and the abdomen. It can occur at any stage of life, but older adults are more susceptible to the disease.[4]

Abdominal swelling, constipation, abdominal pain, feeling full sooner during meals, and blood in stools are common symptoms of abdominal liposarcoma. To diagnose, a percutaneous core biopsy, MRI, and CT chest scan are done. The surgical removal of the tumor mass is the most common type of treatment.

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CASE PRESENTATION

History and Initial Examination

The patient reported his pain to the endocrinology clinic on 20th June 2021. The 53-year-old had suffered from complaints of vague abdominal pain for the past few months. He had a history of diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and iron deficiency. The pain was aching, mild, intermittent, non-radiating, and generalized. An ultrasound of the abdomen, CT scan and MRI were recommended and the reports showed following results:

1	Ultrasound	Heterogeneous mass at splenorenal sulcus, 10.3 x 8.9 cm, no significant hypervascularity with colour doppler.
2	CT Scan	Presence of huge 30X15cms mass mainly containing heterogeneous soft tissue and a cystic component. Mass lesion in retroperitoneum left side, Mass was pushing the left kidney medially.
3	MRI	A huge fatty mass lesion in retroperitoneal side with oval heterogeneous (mixed cystic and soft tissue) components in the left upper quadrant, measuring about, 11.7 x 14.3 x 9.6cm with perifocal congestive features. The mass pushed the left kidney antero-medially. Superiorly, the mass was intimately related to the left hemidiaphragm (mainly posterolateral), superiorly with spleen, medially with the pancreatic tail, and anteriorly with the splenic flexure of colon. Another small mass lesion, measuring 1.8 x 1.5cm, is noted to be inferior to the previously-described lesion.
4	Exploratory laparotomy	Wide radical resection of retroperitoneal sarcoma with splenectomy

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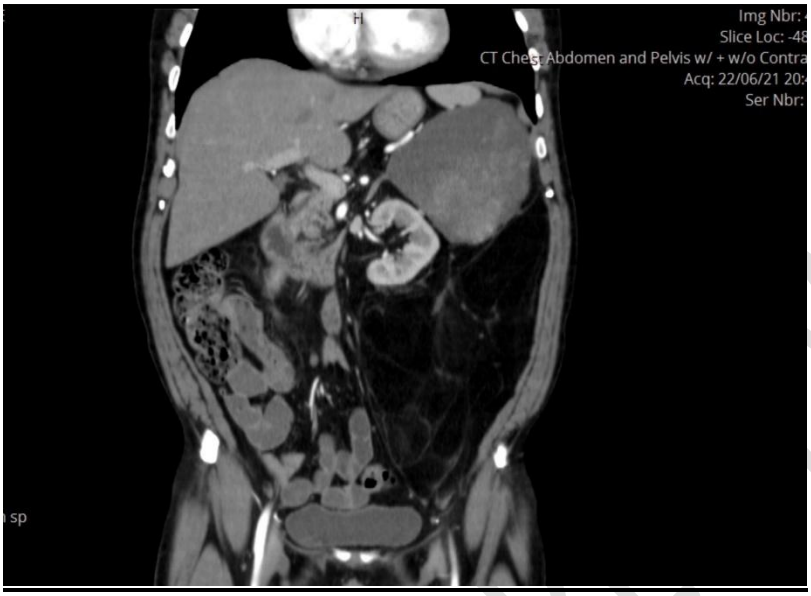

Figure 1: CT scan image

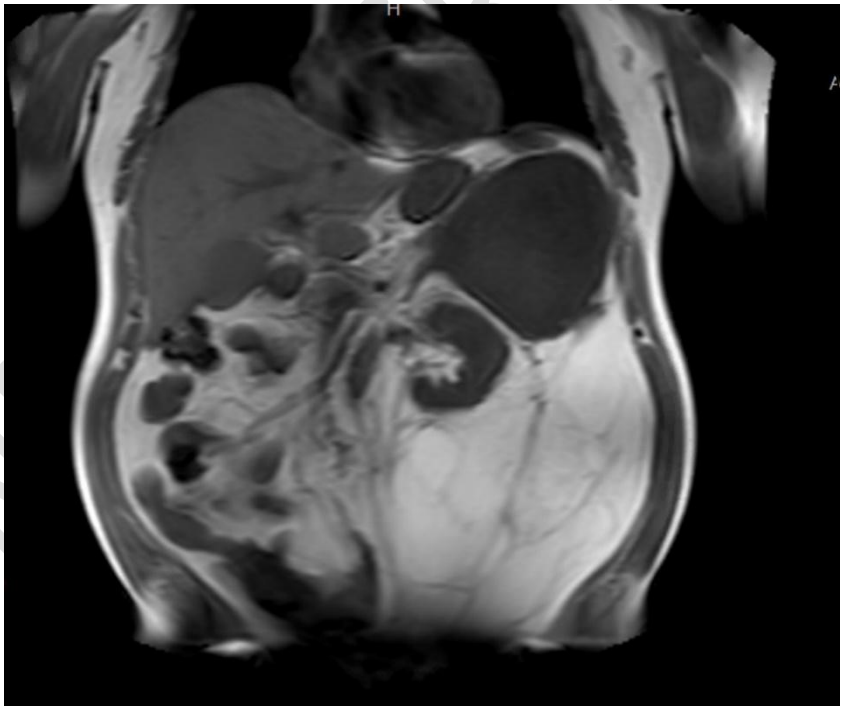

Figure 2 CT scan image

Diagnosis:

After initial examination and reports, the patient was diagnosed with a retroperitoneal tumor and splenectomy.

A. Spleen, Splenectomy:

The splenic capsule was encased by the tumour, but the splenic parenchyma was not directly invaded.

B. Retroperitoneal Tumour, Resection (Fragmented):

The liposarcoma was found to be dedifferentiated, high grade, and retroperitoneal. The tumor extended to the inked resection margin. The tumor was large, with 24 cm and 14 cm in greatest dimension measurements.

Table 1: Histopathology:

Condition	Retroperitoneal sarcoma invading the spleen	Retroperitoneal tumor smaller lobe	Retroperitoneal tumor larger lobe
Source	Spleen	Retroperitoneal tumor	Retroperitoneal tumor
Weight	84 grams	830 grams	2146 grams
Measurement	10 x 6 x 3.5 cm	14 x 10 x 9 cm	24 x 20 x 10 cm
Appearance of cut surface	Unremarkable.	Pinkish yellow and lobulated.	Lobulated fat with no necrotic or hemorrhagic areas.

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Microscopic examination of the specimens showed that:

- The liposarcoma was de-differentiated.

- It had a differentiated lipomatous components that had scattered lipoblasts and atypical stromal cells.

- The de-differentiated component was solid, with no further specific histological subtype and no heterologous components.

- A marked cytological atypia with hot spots of mitoses was present. However, there was no necrosis.

- There was marked cytological atypia with hot spots of mitoses, but necrosis was not a feature.

Treatment:

Surgery was recommended to remove the enlarged mass as a treatment for liposarcoma.

Table 2: Case Summary (Soft Tissue Resection):

Pre-Resection Treatment	No known pre resection therapy
Procedure	Marginal resection (two fragments were received)
Tumor focality	Unifocal
Tumor site	Retroperitoneum
Tumor size	24cm was observed as the largest dimension of the larger fragment, whereas the smaller fragment had a largest dimension of 14cm
Histologic type	Dedifferentiated liposarcoma

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Histologic grade	Grade 3 (French Federation of Cancer Centers Sarcoma Group)
Mitotic Rate	> 20 mitoses per 10 high-power fields (HPF)
Necrosis	Not identified
Treatment effect	Not reported
Lympohvascular invasion	Not identified
Regional lymph nodes	Not applicable
Distant Metastasis	Not applicable
Pathologic stage classification	pT4 pNX pMX
pT category	pT4 (Tumor more than 15cm in greatest dimension)
pN category	pN not assigned

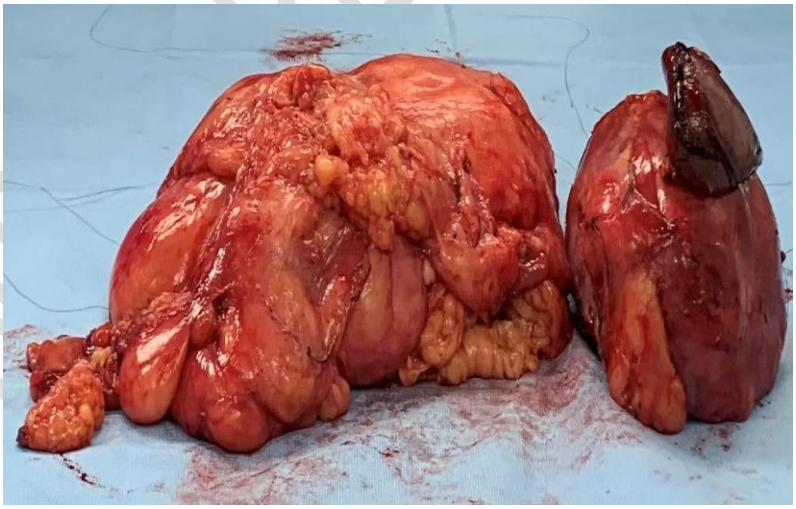

Figure 3: Liposarcoma mass obtained after surgical excision.

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Special studies

The examination and diagnosis also included some special studies such as an immunohistochemistry assay. However, no cytogenetics and molecular pathology tests were performed.

Table 3: Immunohistochemistry profile

MDM2	Positive
Desmin	Negative
CD117	Negative
CD34	Negative
DOG1	Negative
CKAE/AE3	Negative
SMA	Negative
S100	Negative
p16	Positive
p53	Negative
Vimentin	Positive
Factor XIIIa	Negative

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Report

CT Scan of Abdomen, Pelvis and Chest With and Without IV Contrast (Triple Phases)

Patient was recommended CT scans of the chest, pelvic and abdomen. Here are the findings of the CT scans:

Pelvic CT scan:

The CT scan of the chest found a huge 30X15cms mainly containing fat, with dimensions of 11x10cm. It was heterogeneous soft tissue with a cystic component mass lesion in the retroperitoneum left side. The heterogeneous part was enhanced after a contrast injection. The mass lesion was encasing, pushing, and displacing left kidney medially. However, kidneys had normal size and outline. The presence of a small 13x7mm heterogeneous fat mass pointed toward angiomyolipoma, but both adrenals were normal. The mass also displaced small intestinal loops medially. The size and outline of liver was normal. No focal lesions were present. No dilated intrahepatic passages were detected. CBD caliber was also normal. Normal spleen with no focal lesion was present. Pancreas had normal size, but the tail was compressed and displaced by the mass lesion. No pelvic collection and free air was detected. Urinary bladder was also normal.

Chest CT scan:

Two enlarged mediastinal lymph nodes just medial to right brachiocephalic vein were identified. Other detections included clears lungs with no patchy opacification or abnormality, normal hilars with no significant lymphadenopathy, and no pleural effusion. Chest wall, mediastinum and cardiac size was normal.

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CT of the Neck, Chest Abdomen and Pelvis with Contrast: Five Months Post-Surgery

Neck scan:

Although neck images were distorted by patient movement and swallowing, it showed normal appearance of bilateral submandibular glands with no mass lesions. 1.2x0.8 cm reactive nodes adjacent and lateral to the right submandibular gland were detected. Bilateral parotid gland and thyroid gland were normal in appearance. No significant enlarged nodes and no bone lesions in the cervical spine were detected.

Chest scan:

Lungs were clear. There were multiple bilateral tiny 2-3mm calcified granulomas and few centrimeters medistinal lymph nodes, most of which demonstrate fatty hilum were present. Axilla, thoracic wall, thoracic spine and mediastinum showed normal appearance.

Abdomen and pelvis:

Liver, gall bladder and pancreas were clear. Upper abdominal retroperitoneal sarcoma was completely resolved. Residual linear scarring in the region of previous surgery were present, but no soft tissue mass lesions were detected. The mid-descending colon appears closely approximated to left posterior abdominal wall - probably secondary to post-surgical scarring adherence.The appearance of adrenal glands, both kidneys, abdominal aorta, interior vena cava, urinary bladder outline, small and large bowel were normal. However, tiny simple bilateral cysts were present in kidneys, but there was no evidence of free fluid.

Results showed that there was no evidence of recurrence or residual retroperitoneal tumour.

PET scan:

Mildly FDG-avid peritoneal nodular stranding near the splenectomy bed were present that could

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be due to post-surgical inflammation. No evidence of FDG-avid malignancy.

DISCUSSION

Malignant tumors with adipocytic differentiation are liposarcomas. They are the second most common type of soft tissue sarcomas and account for about 15-20% of all soft tissue sarcomas.[4] De-differentiated liposarcoma is the most common type among liposarcomas which represent an aggressive and high-grade disease. The retroperitoneum is the most common target for liposarcomas.[5] They are associated with high metastatic recurrence. Disease-specific mortality is six-fold higher than well-differentiated liposarcomas.[6],[7] This case presented an example of a huge liposarcoma detected in the retroperitoneum. It was also high grade and aggressive.

The respective case not a well-differentiated liposarcoma, although both types are sensitive to chemotherapy.[8] Usually, de-differentiated liposarcoma occurs as an outgrowth of well-differentiated liposarcomas.[9] The majority of de-differentiated liposarcomas are de novo lesions, whereas the rest develop from pre-existing well-differentiated liposarcoma as a late complication, with an average timeline of 7.7 years.[6]

Immunohistochemistry assays are usually positive for MDM2 biomarker in liposarcomas cases, as well as for CDK2 to a lesser extent. In the reported case, only MDM2 gave a positive result. As this condition is more common in patients with age between 50 and 80 years, and the reported case is a complaint of liposarcoma in a 53-year-old male. The liposarcoma was slow growing and painless, but compression with other organs caused abdominal pain. For high-grade liposarcomas, wide surgical resection is usually used. Surgical treatment is the most common treatment for de-differentiated sarcoma. [10]

In a different case, a de-differentiated liposarcoma was reported in a 75-year-old man with anorexia. This was also a giant retroperitoneal liposarcoma.[11] Most of the giant liposarcomas reported in literature belong to the de-differentiated group of liposarcomas.[12],[13] This case also reported the presence of a huge liposarcoma.

CONCLUSION

The case found the presence of huge liposarcoma in a 53-year-old patient. Liposarcomas are usually large, more than 5cm, but this case presented 24cm as the largest dimension. The sarcoma itself was painless but it was compressing other vital organs which caused pain. Compression was most evident in the spleen, which was removed during surgery.

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