

TITLE: Case of Primary Ovarian Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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BACKGROUND:

Primary squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the ovary is a rare occurrence, making up less than 1% of primary ovarian malignant tumors, and only 36 cases have been reported in the literature. Most cases arise from malignant transformations of mature cystic teratomas. Less commonly, SCC of the ovary can arise from Brenner tumors or endometriosis. Generally, patients who develop primary ovarian SCC as opposed to other ovarian carcinomas have a poorer prognosis. Mortality with SCC of the ovary has been reported to be up to 80% within the first 6 months of diagnosis.

OBJECTIVE:

We present a case of a premenopausal female who presented with a right ovarian cyst that turned out to be primary squamous cell carcinoma of the ovary.

CASE DETAILS:

A 37 year old female with past medical history significant for probable cervical carcinoma in situ resulting in a laparoscopic assisted vaginal hysterectomy & bilateral salpingectomy 5 years prior presented to the emergency room for sharp right lower quadrant pain. A CT scan revealed a 8 x 5.9 x 9.5 cm multicystic lesion of the right ovary, thought to be an endometrioma. CA-125 was drawn and normal. Given her overall stable abdominal exam and good pain control, the patient was discharged home with plans to follow up for laparoscopic right oophorectomy. Twelve days later, she was taken to the operating room where operative findings were consistent with an ovarian endometrioma. Final pathology returned with HPV-associated, nonkeratinizing

squamous cell carcinoma of ovarian origin. The patient subsequently had a PET/CT that showed no evidence of metastatic disease. She then underwent left oophorectomy, omentectomy, paraaortic & pelvic lymph node dissection, peritoneal biopsies, and pelvic washings. At the time of writing, only the pelvic washings had resulted from pathology - showing no evidence of metastatic cells. The patient will proceed to receive adjuvant chemotherapy, the number of cycles and drugs will depend upon the final stage of her cancer.

CONCLUSION:

Primary squamous cell carcinoma is an extremely rare type of epithelial ovarian cancer. It is challenging to diagnose, often unexpectedly diagnosed in the operating room or on final pathology. It also has a very poor prognosis once the tumor has spread beyond the ovary, making prompt diagnosis and treatment of the essence.