Case report

A 26-year-old otherwise healthy male was referred for evaluation of a left paratesticular mass. The mass caused no discomfort or local symptoms; it came to the patient’s attention as a painless firm mass that enlarged over the course of six months. On physical exam, a 6-cm oval-shaped paratesticular mass distinct from the left spermatic cord was palpated. A scrotal ultrasound was performed initially, which confirmed an extratesticular mass 6.1 × 5.5 × 4.3 cm, likely a paratesticular tumour arising from the left spermatic cord (Fig. 1). The mass was resected without performing an orchietomy and histology demonstrated a solitary fibrous tumour (lipomatous hemangiopericytoma), with minimal proliferative activity and negative margins. The occurrence of a paratesticular solitary fibrous tumour is exceedingly rare, with only a handful of case reports. We review the literature regarding this rare entity and discuss its diagnosis and management.

Introduction

While most masses within the scrotal sac are neoplasms of the testis, a small subset of these are extratesticular and arise from paratesticular tissues (structures of the spermatic cord, testicular tunics, and vestigial remnants). About 70% of paratesticular tumours are benign, the most common of these being lipomas, adenomatoid tumours and leiomyomas. Less common benign tumours of the paratesticular region include fibromas, hemangiomas, neurofibromas, papillary mesotheliomas and cystadenomas.1 A variety of even more uncommon benign tumours have been reported in the paratesticular region; among the rarest of these is the benign solitary fibrous tumour (hemangiopericytoma). This report describes a case of paratesticular hemangiopericytoma, one of only several to date in the literature.
the basis of these histopathologic and immunohistochemical findings, the diagnosis of a paratesticular solitary fibrous tumour was made.

Discussion

Adult paratesticular tumours comprise a histologically diverse group of neoplasms originating from epithelial, mesothelial and mesenchymal elements in the paratesticular region. It has been estimated that 70% of paratesticular tumours are benign, the most common of these being adenomatoid tumours, lipomas and leiomyomas. Malignant tumours of the paratesticular region are less common, with sarcomas accounting for most of these. Published series of sarcomas have identified leiomyosarcoma (32%) as the most common malignant soft tissue tumour in this region, followed by rhabdomyosarcomas (24%) and liposarcomas (20%).

A number of very uncommon benign and malignant tumours have been reported in the paratesticular region. Among the rarest of these are hemangiopericytomas, typically low-grade neoplasms of pericytes and myofibroblast-like cells that are normally arranged around capillaries and venules. When present outside the central nervous system, the preferred terminology for these tumours is solitary fibrous tumours. These growths generally present as slow-growing, painless masses at any anatomic site; however, the lower extremities and retroperitoneum are most common. Less prevalent sites include subcutaneous tissues, as well as the pelvis, head and neck, and abdomen. Histologically, solitary fibrous tumours are characterized by numerous branching capillary channels and gaping sinusoidal spaces enclosed within nests of spindle- to round-shaped cells. Intrascrotal solitary fibrous tumours are uncommon, with only a few cases reported in the paratesticular region. Histologically, these tumours have similar morphological features to those present elsewhere in the body.

Most solitary fibrous tumours are benign and present as well-circumscribed, slowly growing, painless masses. Surgical resection is curative in most cases. However, 10% to 15% of solitary fibrous tumours show aggressive behaviour and recurrences have been documented many years after resection. Given the small risk of local disease recurrence and metastasis, long-term follow-up is sufficient in the absence of further adjuvant therapy.

Conclusion

While solitary fibrous tumours are more common elsewhere in the body, very few case reports have been published of paratesticular origin. The few cases described in the literature do not address long-term follow-up of these tumours, and therefore there is little evidence on which to base treat-
ment. However, given their behavior at other anatomic sites, paratesticular solitary fibrous tumors with low proliferative activity have little potential for local recurrence or metastatic spread. Thus, our current approach will be to monitor the patient by means of serial physical exams and scrotal ultrasonographs to rule out disease recurrence.

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References


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Fig. 3. Hematoxylin and eosin stain demonstrating bland spindle cell tumour with vascular spaces, some showing “staghorn” configuration.