

Small cell carcinoma of the endometrium with concomitant pelvic inflammatory disease

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摘要

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Small cell carcinoma of the endometrium is a rare disease entity characterized by bulkiness and predisposition to necrosis. Clinical presentations include postmenopausal bleeding, lower abdominal mass, chronic abdominal pain and menorrhagia. We present a case of small cell carcinoma of the endometrium with concomitant pelvic inflammatory disease. The literature is also reviewed. **CASE:** A 64 year old female presented was admitted with the principal complaints of fever, lower abdominal pain and malodorous vaginal discharge. Bimanual examination revealed cervical motion tenderness with a WBC of 9400 cells/microL and increased levels of neutrophils, band cells and C-reactive protein. Sonography revealed an adnexal echocomplex compatible with tubo-ovarian abscess. Culture of the vaginal discharge revealed the presence of *E. coli*. Symptoms persisted despite three days of antibiotics administration so a laparotomy was performed with a friable hemorrhagic uterus revealed and an area of necrosis evident in the left adnexa. Malignancy was confirmed from frozen section. Total abdominal hysterectomy, with bilateral salpingoophorectomy and optimal debulking, was performed. The final pathology report confirmed small cell carcinoma of the endometrium. **CONCLUSION:** Malignancy and pelvic inflammatory disease have overlapping clinical characteristics. Once pelvic inflammatory disease is suspected in a postmenopausal patient, malignancy should also be suspected, and a thorough examination and a tumor-marker analysis performed.