

Huge desmoid tumor of the anterior abdominal wall mimicking an intraabdominal mass in a postpartum woman: a case report

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Abstract

Desmoid tumors are benign neoplasms that most often arise from muscle aponeurosis and have been associated with both trauma and pregnancy. The etiology of desmoids has not been determined. We present the case of anterior abdominal wall desmoid tumor in a female patient with previous history of cesarean section. Preoperative ultrasound and computed tomography demonstrated a large mass mimicking a large hematoma or an intraabdominal mass. The tumor was removed by wide excision with safe margins. The abdominal wall defect was reconstructed with polypropylene mesh. Subsequent histology revealed a desmoid tumor. Desmoid tumors in females are often associated with pregnancy or occur post-partum. The reasons behind this association are unclear. The most common sites are in the abdominal muscles

Introduction

Desmoid tumors are rare neoplasms, accounting for 0.3% of all neoplasms and less than 3% of all soft tissue tumors with an estimated incidence in the general population of 2-4 per million of population per year [1-3]. They are histologically benign arising from connective tissue of muscles, the fascia, or the aponeurosis and may occur at multiple anatomic sites [4]. The term "desmoids", coined by Muller in 1838, was based on the Greek etymology "Desmos", which means tendonlike. Pregnancy associated desmoids tumors have been a subject of interest since the first description by Macfarlane in 1832 [5].

Patient and observation

A 28 years old woman consulted for a firm mass in the left upper abdomen. The interview found no history of family