An incidental finding of an abdominopelvic macrocystic lymphangioma in a girl with Turners Syndrome

Jasjit K Bhandari, Nisha Nathwani
Department of Paediatrics, Luton & Dunstable University Hospital Trust, UK

Background

- Cystic lymphangiomata are rare benign tumours of childhood resulting from an abnormal development of the lymphatic system, most of which occur in the head and axillary region, referred to as cystic hygromas.
- Lymphangioma arising in the abdomen are particularly rare and the symptoms are variable. They usually affect boys and can be associated with specific genetic abnormalities, most notably Turners syndrome.

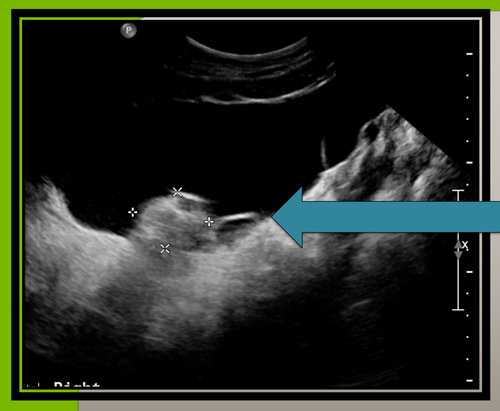

Figure 1: Renal Ultrasound

Case

- 14 year old girl with Turners syndrome - found to have a large abdominal lymphangioma on ultrasound.
- She was diagnosed with Turners syndrome on amniocentesis and was being followed up annually in outpatients.
- She was well apart from occasional abdominal pain and heavy periods.
- Renal ultrasound showed a large cystic structure measuring 17x6cm in the right adnexa extending to the central abdomen.
- An MRI showed the cystic structure was separate from the right ovary and was highly suggestive of a lymphangioma.
- She was referred to the paediatric surgical team where she is undergoing sclerosing therapy.

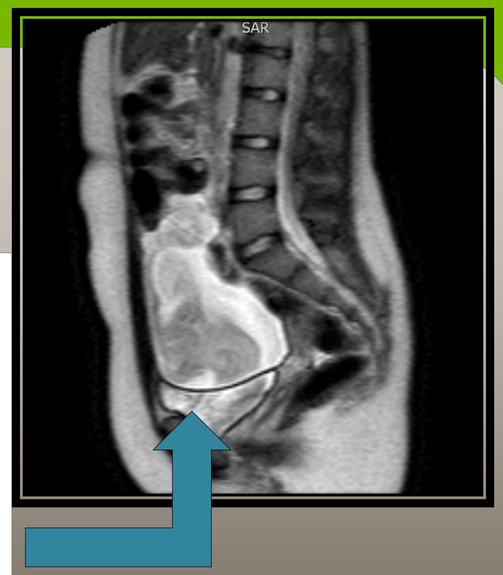

Figure 2: MRI Pelvis- Complex thin walled cystic lesion.

Learning Point

Congenital abnormalities present outside the neonatal period as surgical disease, and although very rare intra-abdominal lymphangioma need to be excluded in the differential of an acute abdomen especially in girls of reproductive age.

References

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Talukdar S, Alagaratnam, S, et al. Giant cystic lymphangioma in childhood: a rare differential for the acute abdomen. BMJ Case reports 2011; do:10.1136.

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