



Pedunculated Focal Nodular Hyperplasia Adherent to the Gall Bladder: A Case Report

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Background: Focal Nodular Hyperplasia (FNH) is a benign hepatic neoplasm commonly occurring in women of the reproductive age group. The pedunculated form is a rare entity that occurs in 3% of the cases. A case of pedunculated FNH adherent to the gallbladder is reported.

Case: A 33-year-old woman with a mass in the right upper quadrant of the abdomen associated with intermittent pain and was found to have pedunculated focal nodular hyperplasia adherent to the gallbladder. She underwent laparotomy with cholecystectomy and wide resection of segments V and VI of the liver.

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Conclusion: Early diagnosis is imperative in cases of pedunculated FNH to guide the plan of treatment so as to minimize the risk of complications. It must therefore be kept in mind as a differential in cases of liver masses, especially in young women of the reproductive age group.

Keywords: Focal nodular hyperplasia; liver tumor; liver resection; laparotomy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Focal Nodular Hyperplasia is a benign tumor of hepatic origin, only second in prevalence to cavernous hemangiomas [1-3]. FNH typically occurs in females of the reproductive age group [1]. It is asymptomatic in most cases but can rarely arise as a pedunculated mass- that is more likely to be associated with complications and hence requires surgical treatment. Adherence of the tumor to the gallbladder creates additional challenges in terms of resection. We report a case of a 33-year-old woman with a mass in the right upper quadrant of the abdomen associated with intermittent pain diagnosed as pedunculated focal nodular hyperplasia of the liver.

2. CASE PRESENTATION

A 33 year-old woman presented with complaints of a mass in the right upper quadrant of her abdomen since 1 year, associated with intermittent pain. She had no other complaints and there was no history of use of oral contraceptive pills. On physical examination, the patient's vitals were stable. An 8 cm x 6 cm mass was palpated in the right hypochondrium in the midclavicular line, 3 cm below the coastal margin with well-defined borders and an irregular surface which moved with respiration. On percussion, a dull note was heard over the mass, continuous with liver dullness. Liver serology was negative. Ultrasonography (USG) of the

abdomen showed a well-defined oval isoechoic solid lesion of 7.5 cm x 5.8 cm in the right lobe of the liver with no calcification or cavitation. Computed Tomography (CT) of the abdomen revealed an exophytic mass of 7.1cm x 7.3 cm x 9.5 cm arising from the inferior right lobe of the liver with prominent arterial recruitment as shown in Figs. 1 to 4.

Patient underwent a laparotomy with cholecystectomy and wide resection of segments V and VI of the liver. Intraoperatively, a 10 cm x 8 cm vascular fibrous pedunculated growth arising from segment V and VI of the liver and adherent to the gallbladder was noted as shown in Fig. 5. Dilated lymphatics were also noted around the gallbladder. Remaining liver parenchyma appeared grossly normal.

Macroscopic examination of the respected specimen showed a nodular external surface and the cut section showed a well circumscribed solid lesion with a central area of gray white stellate scarred tissue. Microscopically, hepatic tissue characterized by prominent nodules separated by fibrous septae with plenty of thick-walled blood vessels was noted suggestive of focal nodular hyperplasia of liver.

The postoperative period was uneventful and the patient was discharged 3 days after surgery. Sutures were removed on post operative day 10. Patient is currently doing well and is on regular follow up.



Fig. 1. Axial section of CECT showing the lesion (as indicated by arrow)



Fig. 2. Sagittal section showing tumor (as indicated by arrow) arising from liver



Fig. 3. Coronal section showing the tumor arising from the inferior right lobe of liver

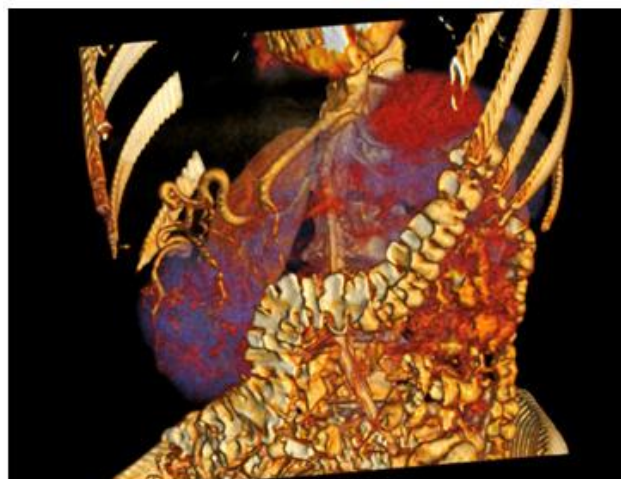


Fig. 4. 3D reconstructed image showing a mass arising from the inferior right lobe of the liver with prominent arterial recruitment

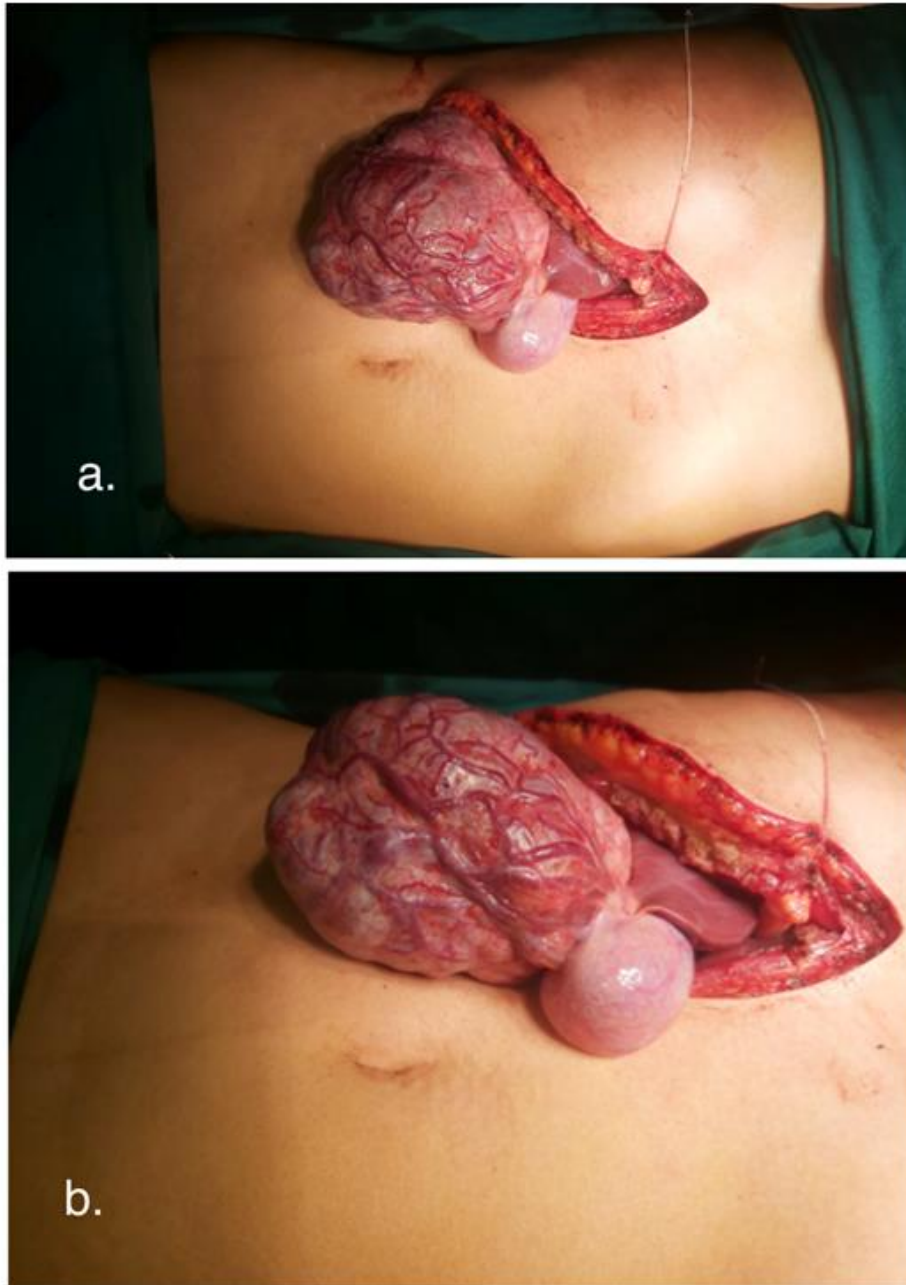


Fig. 5. Intraoperative images showing a large vascular fibrous pedunculated growth arising from segment V and VI of the liver that is adherent to the gallbladder

3. DISCUSSION

Focal Nodular hyperplasia is the second most common benign liver tumor after cavernous hemangiomas [1-3]. It has an estimated prevalence of 0.9% in the general population [1]. It commonly occurs in young women [1] and is associated with the use of oral contraceptive pills [4-5], although cases have been reported in children [6] as well as in men [7]. Pedunculated

variety accounts for only 3% of the cases of FNH [8]. As per a report by Ismail et al [9], only 10 cases of pedunculated FNH had been reported until 2020. FNH typically has a size less than 5 cm and only 3% of the cases have a size greater than 10cm [3]. FNH is mostly asymptomatic but a pedunculated form can result in complications such as gastric outlet obstruction precipitated from tumors of segments 2-5, compression of surrounding vessels, hemorrhage from the

vessels of the stalk and most significantly, torsion of the pedicle leading to infarction of the tumor [9,10].

Diagnosis of FNH is often incidental and made with imaging modalities such as MRI which shows a hypo/iso-intense mass on T1-weighted images and hyper/iso-intense mass on T2-weighted images with arterial phase enhancement [11]. Ultrasound and Computed Tomography can also be used but have a lower sensitivity and specificity. Definitive diagnosis is made with histopathology.

Management of FNH is mostly conservative, involving cessation of oral contraception and routine follow up. Resection is indicated in symptomatic or atypical cases, ideally using a laparoscopic approach wherever feasible [9]. Embolization of the feeding vessel can also be performed [10]. FNH does not have malignant potential and resection ensures lasting relief of symptoms.

4. CONCLUSION

Early diagnosis is imperative in cases of pedunculated FNH to guide the plan of treatment so as to minimize the risk of complications. It must therefore be kept in mind as a differential in cases of liver masses, especially in young women of the reproductive age group.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, patient(s) written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

ETHICAL APPROVAL

As per international standard or university standard written ethical approval has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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