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CASE REPORT

A case of giant prostatic hyperplasia



Luke Wang ^{a,*}, Paul Davis ^a, Kevin McMillan ^{a,b}

^a Department of Urology, Eastern Health, Nelson St, Box Hill, Victoria, Australia

^b Monash University, Eastern Health Clinical School, Arnold St, Box Hill, Victoria, Australia

Received 28 September 2015; received in revised form 12 October 2015; accepted 16 October 2015
Available online 3 November 2015

KEYWORDS

Prostate;
Prostatic hyperplasia;
Urology;
Haematuria;
Indwelling catheters

Abstract Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) is one of the most common conditions experienced by aging males and a frequent cause of bladder outlet obstruction and macroscopic haematuria. Giant prostatic hyperplasia (GPH) is an extremely rare form of prostatic hyperplasia. We present a case of a patient with GPH of 800 mL. To our knowledge, this is the fourth largest prostatic hyperplasia ever reported in the literature.

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1. Introduction

Benign prostate hyperplasia (BPH) is a common condition that produces progressive lower urinary tract symptoms in aging males. Giant prostate hyperplasia (GPH) is a rare entity and defined as massive prostate hyperplasia weighing more than 500 g [1]. We present a case of a 94-year-old man with conservatively managed GPH of 800 mL, which is the fourth largest recorded prostate enlargement in literature.

2. Case report

A 94-year-old male presented with 24 h of macroscopic haematuria complicated by clot retention. Clinical

examination revealed a tender dull mass in the suprapubic region. Digital rectal examination revealed a very large prostate with no malignant features. In the emergency department, bladder scan revealed a residual volume of 400 mL. A 3-way urinary catheter was inserted and continuous bladder washout was commenced. Laboratory examinations revealed haemoglobin of 113 g/L, serum creatinine of 111 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ and normal coagulation studies. Urine analysis showed a large amount of red blood cells. A computer tomography (CT) scan was performed to investigate the cause of macroscopic haematuria and it highlighted a grossly enlarged prostate. By obtaining the maximum organ dimensions in the anterior-posterior, lateral and longitudinal planes, the radiologist calculated the prostate volume to be at 800 mL. So large was the prostate that the tip and balloon of the indwelling catheter was seen to just reach beyond the end of the gland (Figs. 1–3).

Upon further review, the patient described longstanding lower urinary tract symptoms of slow stream, incomplete emptying and urinary frequency. Two years earlier he had

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: drlukewang@gmail.com (L. Wang).

Peer review under responsibility of Shanghai Medical Association and SMMU.



Figure 1 Coronal CT image showing giant prostate occupying majority of the bladder.



Figure 2 Sagittal CT image showing tip and balloon of indwelling catheter barely above the giant prostate.



Figure 3 Axial CT image showing the bladder filled by prostate tissue with the catheter traversing the prostatic tissue.

another episode of macroscopic haematuria and the renal tract ultrasound highlighted gross prostatomegaly with a volume of 420 mL. Flexible cystoscopy confirmed the ultrasound findings of the enormous prostate. He refused surgical intervention at that time and was commenced on combination therapy, tamsulosin 400 mcg and dutasteride 500 mcg. This gentleman also had medical co-morbidities including ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia and gout.

Whilst his haematuria settled on continuous bladder irrigation, he developed bilateral lower limb swelling and Doppler ultrasound identified bilateral deep vein thrombosis (DVT). He was commenced on low-molecular weight heparin to prevent clot propagation. Unfortunately this contributed to ongoing haematuria and required packed red cell transfusions.

The treatment options for this gross prostatic enlargement were limited by his comorbidities, age and bilateral DVTs. He was not suitable for endoscopic resection due to its enormous size. Open prostatectomy was considered but the patient and his family declined due to the risks associated with major surgery and his significant comorbidities. Suprapubic catheterisation was not viable due to the fact that patient's entire bladder was filled by intravesical prostate tissue as depicted in Fig. 1.

Repeat lower leg Doppler ultrasound imaging revealed DVT resolution and anticoagulation therapy was ceased. Haematuria subsequently resolved and the patient was discharged with a long-term indwelling catheter *in situ*. At the time of submission, patient had no further episodes of haematuria and is coping well with the urinary catheter.

3. Discussion

BPH is a frequent cause of bladder outlet obstruction and can cause macroscopic haematuria. It is one of the most common diseases experienced by aging males and histological evidence of the disease is present in up to 60% of men at age 60 [2]. GPH is defined as a prostate weighing more than 500 g [1]. In the current literature, there are few cases of BPH with volumes greater than 500 g, and only nine reported cases of giant prostate enlargement exceeding 700 g [1,3–10]. Our case represents the fourth largest prostate reported in the literature.

The pathophysiology of GPH is not fully understood. Hypotheses suggest a combination of disruption in normal stromal-epithelial paracrine signalling, an imbalance between androgenic, cytokine and peptide growth signalling, a reduction in apoptosis and a proliferation in stromal and epithelial cells which result in significant prostate enlargement [1]. Specifically, mutations of proto-oncogenes such as *Ras* and *c-erbB2*, as well as the down-regulation of the *p53* suppressor gene, can lead to the abnormal and continuous cellular proliferation [1].

Surgical intervention is indicated in BPH when patients have acute or chronic urinary retention, recurrent gross haematuria, urinary tract infections, renal insufficiency, bladder stones or severe lower urinary tract symptoms refractory to medical treatment [2]. Transurethral resection of prostate (TURP), transurethral incision of the prostate

(TUIP), and laser vaporisation or enucleation techniques are surgical options for small and medium-sized prostates [2]. Open prostatectomy is utilised for large prostates not amenable to sequential endoscopic procedures, and those with coexistent pathology like bladder stones [2]. This gentleman would have best been treated by open prostatectomy, however his age and comorbidities precluded this approach.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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