



## Open Scientific Journal of Surgery

Case Report

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### Peritonitis by Spontaneous rupture of ovarian dermoid cyst: a case report

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Received Date: Dec 09, 2019 / Accepted Date: Dec 13, 2019 / Published Date: Dec 16, 2019

#### Abstract

**Background:** Ovarian dermoid cyst is a benign congenital tumor. It is often incidentally diagnosed and can be revealed in very rare cases by spontaneous rupture. We report the case of a ruptured ovarian dermal cyst complicated by generalized peritonitis.

**Case report:** This was a 20-year-old female patient, who consulted for abdominal pain associated with fever and vomiting. Physical examination found generalized abdominal contracture. Plain abdominal radiography found pneumoperitoneum. Biology showed leukocytosis at 18000 / mm<sup>3</sup>. Median laparotomy revealed a collection 2000 cc of pus with a ruptured right ovarian mass. An adnexectomy with lavage of abdominal cavity were performed. Anatomopathological examination concluded to an ovarian dermoid cyst with no sign of malignancy. The postoperative course was uneventful.

**Conclusion:** Rupture of a dermoid cyst of the ovary is a rare acute complication. Examination of the operative specimen is mandatory to eliminate malignancy.

**Keywords:** Ovary; Dermoid cyst; Rupture; Acute complication; Peritonitis; Ovary

**Cite this article as:** Diallo AC, Tendeng JN, Ndong A, et al. 2019. Peritonitis by Spontaneous rupture of ovarian dermoid cyst: a case report. Open Sci J Surg. 1: 60-62.

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#### Introduction

The dermoid cyst or mature cystic teratoma of the ovary is a benign, congenital tumor [1]. It evolves at the expense of pluripotent germ cells capable of constituting tissues derived from the 3 embryonic leaves (ectoderm, endoderm, mesoderm) [2]. It is often incidentally diagnosed but can be revealed in very rare cases by a spontaneous rupture. We report the case of

a rupture ovarian dermoid cyst complicated by generalized peritonitis.

#### Case report

It was a 20-year-old patient who consulted for abdominal pain that had been evolving for 2 weeks. These symptoms were associated with fever and vomiting. Physical examination found a generalized abdominal contracture.

Plain abdominal radiography showed pneumoperitoneum (Figure 1). At the blood count, leukocytosis at 18000 / mm<sup>3</sup> was noted. A median laparotomy was performed. On exploration, there was a collection estimated to 2000 cc of purulent fluid with a ruptured right ovarian mass. An adnexectomy with peritoneal lavage were done. The macroscopic appearance of the operative specimen was in favor of an ovarian teratoma with the presence of hair and teeth (Figure 2). The postoperative course was uneventful with discharge on the 5th day. Histopathology concluded to a mature teratoma of the ovary without signs of malignancy.



**Figure 1:** Plain abdominal radiography with pneumoperitoneum (arrow).

### Discussion

The dermoid cyst of the ovary represents 11-25% of ovarian tumors [3]. It is rarely complicated (4 to 6% of cases). The most common complication is torsion (15%) [4]. The rupture in peritoneal cavity is a very rare complication estimated at 1.3% [5]. Spontaneous rupture is rarer because most reported case are iatrogenic during laparoscopy [3]. Ultrasonography can help in the diagnosis. Dermoid cysts often appear as a cystic

formation with an echogenic nodule attached to its wall (the Rokitansky nodule) [6]. However, CT or MRI, the presence of fat is the main element that allows diagnosis in most cases [1]. A malignant transformation is possible but rare. It is observed especially after menopause [7]. Complete rupture of dermoid cyst lead to chemical peritonitis [8]. Symptoms depends on the type of the rupture: localized or generalized peritonitis [9,10]. Contact between contents of the cyst and peritoneum is responsible for an inflammatory reaction [4]. And in this case, it causes granulomatous peritonitis which have poor prognosis [5]. Treatment usually consists of a resection of the cyst or adnexectomy [11]. This was the case with our patient. Peritonitis after spontaneous or iatrogenic rupture may have poor prognosis [12]. Indeed, it can cause sepsis by infection or adhesions at the origin of intestinal obstruction. An early diagnosis and treatment help to improve the prognosis.



**Figure 2:** Ovarian teratoma with the presence of hair (red arrow) and teeth (yellow arrow).

## Conclusion

Spontaneous rupture of dermoid ovarian cyst is a rare complication that can lead to generalized peritonitis. Surgical management requires cystectomy or adnexectomy with peritoneal lavage. Prognosis is generally favorable with early diagnosis and treatment.

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