



Type of Manuscript: Case Report

Omphalo-Mesenteric Cyst Presenting as a Complicated Para-Umbilical Hernia in an Elderly Male: A Rare Case Report

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Conflicts of Interest: Nil

Abstract

The Omphalo Mesenteric Duct is a nutritive conduit between yolk sac and gut of the developing fetus, which usually closes off spontaneously at about 5-9 weeks of gestation. Failure of OMD to obliterate completely is estimated to occur in only 1-4 % of the population and may results in wide spectrum of OMD abnormalities and at times present with life threatening complications like strangulation of bowel, obstruction, volvulus or diverticulitis etc. The young children and adolescents are most common age group who presents with OMD anomalies and its manifestation in elderly is very rare and restricted to few case reports only. We hereby report a rare presentation of OMD cyst as irreducible para-umbilical hernia that too in an elderly male, which was confirmed only on surgical exploration and managed successfully by excision.

Keywords: Omphalo Mesenteric Duct; Omphalo Mesenteric Cyst; Meckel's diverticulum; Para-umbilical hernia; Omentocoele

Introduction

The Omphalo Mesenteric Duct (OMD) serves as a conduit between yolk sac and gut of the developing fetus. During 8th week of gestation, the placenta develops and replaces the yolk sac as the source of fetal nutrition, with

subsequent regression of OMD. However, in 1-4 % of the population it fails to regress completely and result in wide spectrum of abnormalities which include: patent omphalo-mesenteric duct, omphalo-mesenteric cysts, Meckel's diverticulum and congenital bands¹. OMD cyst

is further rare, may be intra or pre-peritoneal in location and generally results from obliteration of both the ends i.e. Umbilical and ileal ends, with cystic middle segment. It may be asymptomatic, get infected or cause bowel obstruction. Fifty percent of OMD related symptoms develop by 3 years of age, 75 % by 10 years and presentation in adults and elderly is extremely rare^{2,3}. Due to its rarity and varied presentation, pre-op diagnosis remains challenging especially in elderly age group⁴. Radiological imaging like Ultrasound and CT abdomen aid in diagnosis but at times, it further adds to the confusion and creates a diagnostic dilemma. We hereby report a rare case of OMD cyst in an elderly male, presented as complicated para-umbilical hernia, confirmed as omentocoele on Ultrasonography, but turned out to be a rare OMD cyst on surgical exploration.

Case Report

A 63-year-old male, farmer by occupation, presented with complaints of painful, irreducible, swelling in supra-umbilical region since past four days. Both the symptoms observed simultaneously after lifting heavy weight. Pain was persistent, localized over the swelling and has mild to moderate in intensity. It was not associated with fever, vomiting, abdominal distension, constipation or obstipation. Patient did not have any history of previous abdominal surgery or ventral hernias. General physical examination was unremarkable. Abdominal examination revealed a 6 cm x 4 cm, well defined, firm, globular and tender swelling in mid-line just above the umbilicus (Fig 1a and 1b).

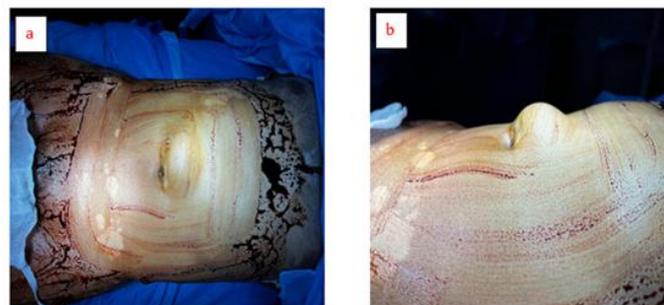


Figure 1: Irreducible para-umbilical hernia – a) Anterior and b) Lateral view

There was no local rise of temperature and skin over the swelling was normal. Rest of the abdomen was scaphoid, non- distended, soft, non- tender and bowel sounds were normal over all four quadrants of abdomen. Urgent laboratory investigation revealed leukocytosis (TLC- 12000/Cmm) with Neutrophil count of 80%. Other haematological and bio-chemical parameters were within normal limits. There were no dilated bowel loops, abnormal air-fluid levels or gas under diaphragm on X-Ray chest and abdomen. Ultrasound abdomen, done at an outside center, showed an extra-peritoneal cystic mass (Fig 2a) and repeat ultrasound at our center revealed a 13.6 mm size defect in anterior abdominal wall in supra-umbilical region with herniation of omentum and anechoic fluid collection in hernial sac (Fig 2b).



Figure 2: Ultrasonography abdomen – a) Thick walled lesion with solid and cystic component without intra peritoneal extension

In view of clinico- radiological suspicion of complicated ventral hernia, patient was taken up for emergency exploration under general anaesthesia via supra-umbilical mid-line incision. A ventral defect of approx. 1.5 cm size was noticed in mid-line through which a cystic swelling of 6 cm x 5 cm was found protruding out which was attached to the ileum with a fibrous band (Fig 3a and b).

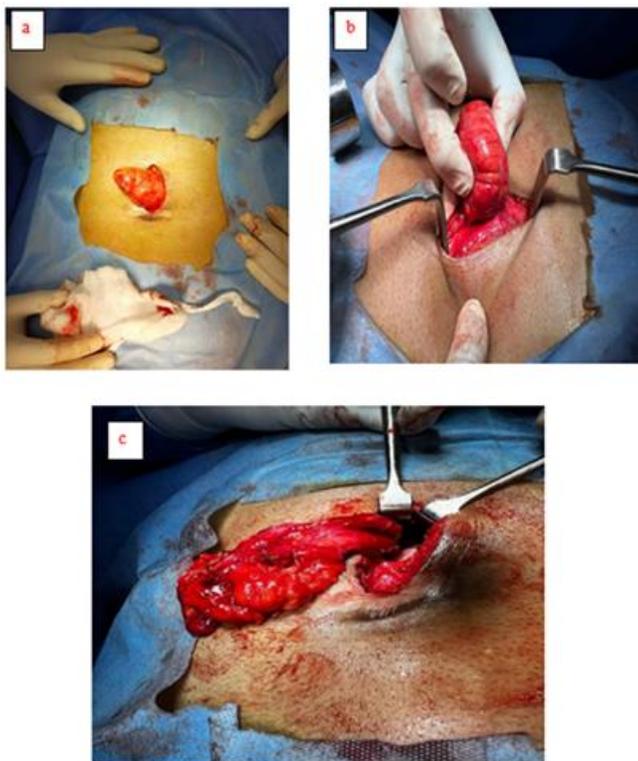


Figure 3: Intra – operative images – (a and b) 6 cm x 5 cm cystic mass as hernial content, c) Reptured cyst adherent to Ileum by a fibrous band

The size of ventral defect was increased to deliver the content which was found attached to ileum with a fibrous band. The cyst along with its band was carefully dissected off the bowel, specimen (Figure 3c) was sent for histopathological examination, bowel was replaced back into the peritoneal cavity and ventral defect was repaired using non- absorbable suture. Post op period was uneventful, patient was started on orals in the evening of surgery, discharged on 3rd post-operative day and skin sutures were removed after ten days. Histopathological

examination of specimen was reported as a unilocular cyst cavity lined by mesenteric type epithelium. The lining epithelium was surrounded by fibro-fatty tissue with psammoma bodies suggestive of OMD cyst (Fig 4a and b).

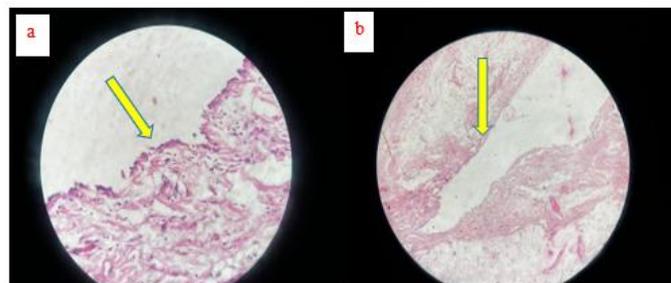


Figure 4: Histo-Pathological examination: a) Mesenteric type epithelium, b) Fluid filled cystic lesion with fibrous band and Psammoma bodies

Discussion

Omphalo-mesenteric duct cysts are typically diagnosed in infancy or childhood, and their occurrence in elderly is exceedingly rare^{3,5}. The age of our patient is 63 years, which is probably the eldest reported case of symptomatic OMD cyst in world literature. The OMD remnants has varied clinical presentation: it may present as acute abdominal conditions viz volvulus, intestinal obstruction, complicated hernia and Meckel's diverticulitis or chronic conditions like pain abdomen, rectal bleeding, umbilical fistula and umbilical hernia. Our patient reported as complicated para-umbilical hernia with painful and irreducible content. Ultrasonography and CT scan of the abdomen aid in diagnosis, but sometimes it adds to the confusion and final diagnosis is made only on surgical exploration. In our case, clinical and Ultrasound examination both were strongly suggestive of para-umbilical hernia with omentocoele, hence CT abdomen was not asked for and patient was straight-way taken-up for surgical exploration and the diagnosis was confirmed only during laparotomy. Management of symptomatic OMD cyst is complete surgical excision, either

laparoscopically or by open surgical approach, which serves both diagnostic and therapeutic purpose. The choice of surgical approach is usually dictated by the clinical condition of the patient, pre-op diagnosis and surgeon's expertise^{2,3}. In this reported case, the decision for an open surgical approach was guided by the clinical and radiological suspicion of complicated para-umbilical hernia, surgeon's expertise as well as patient's preference. The diagnosis was further substantiated by HPE report, which makes it a rarest of rare presentation of OMD cyst as a complicated para-umbilical hernia in an elderly male.

Conclusion

Omphalo-mesenteric cyst presenting as acute abdomen in 6th decade of life is extremely rare. Preoperative diagnosis requires high index of suspicion as presentation may be deceptive. If remained undiagnosed, can lead to serious complications, hence timely diagnosis and appropriate management are of paramount importance.

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