

Epidermoid Cyst of Testis — A Case Report

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Summary

Epidermoid cyst is a benign lesion and accounts for approximately 1 per cent of all testicular tumors¹.

It cannot be differentiated from the other testicular tumors on clinical bases. We report a case of epidermoid cyst of the testis and make a brief review of world literature.

Uniterms: epidermoid cyst; testicular tumors

Introduction

Epidermoid cyst of the testis represents about 1 per cent of all testicular tumors¹. Dockerty and Priestley were the first to report a case in 1942². Then, approximately 150 cases of epidermoid cyst of testis have been reported until January 1987³.

Since these tumors cannot be differentiated from other common testicular malignancies on clinical bases only, they are discovered after an orchiectomy has been performed. As a matter of fact only 15 per cent of epidermoid cysts are identified before the procedure⁴. We believe that orchiectomy could be avoided in these cases.

This is a case report; clinical, ultrasonographic, surgical and pathological data are shown.

Case report

A twenty-one-year-old white male patient was evaluated for back pain in December 1986. During physical examination a 2.0cm, hard mass was discovered in the lower pole of the right testicle. The left testicle was normal. The patient had not complained of other symptoms and denied any history of trauma or infection. Ultrasonogram of the testis revealed a cystic structure in the lower pole of right testicle (Figure 1). At that time the patient did not accept the surgical treatment suggested and decided not to carry on any treatment. He came back only in February 1988. There was not any alteration in clinical history or physical examination. A new ultrasonogram of the testis (Figure 2) demonstrated the same results. Chest roentgenograms were normal and so were serum alphafetoprotein and beta-HCG.

Surgical exploration was performed by right inguinal approach. Frozen section was made and the lesion

was interpreted as an epidermoid cyst. Thus conservative treatment was undertaken.

Pathologic findings

Pathologic study revealed a 2.5 x 2.0 x 1.5 diameter cystic structure. It was round and well encapsulated with a thin wall containing white material and its wall composed of mature squamous epithelium. Frozen section revealed an epidermoid cyst and permanent sections revealed the same (Figure 3).

Discussion

Since it has been stated that any testicular mass is malignant until proved otherwise, almost all epidermoid



Figure 1 — Longitudinal sonogram demonstrating right testicular cyst.

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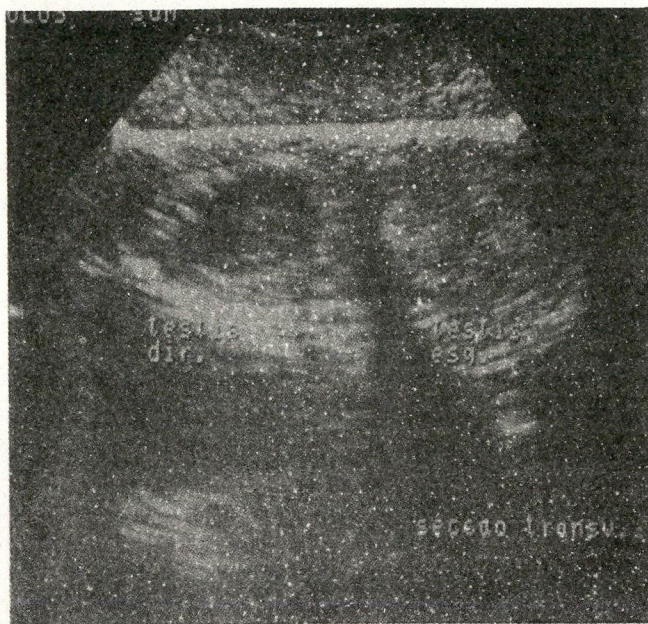


Figure 2 — Transverse sonogram reveals a right testicular cyst that is being easily demonstrated.

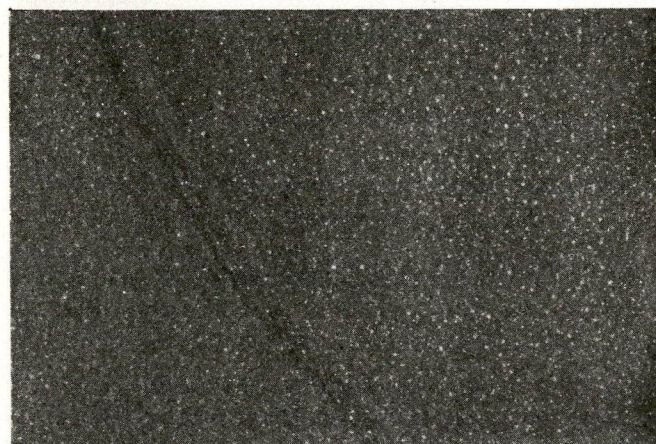
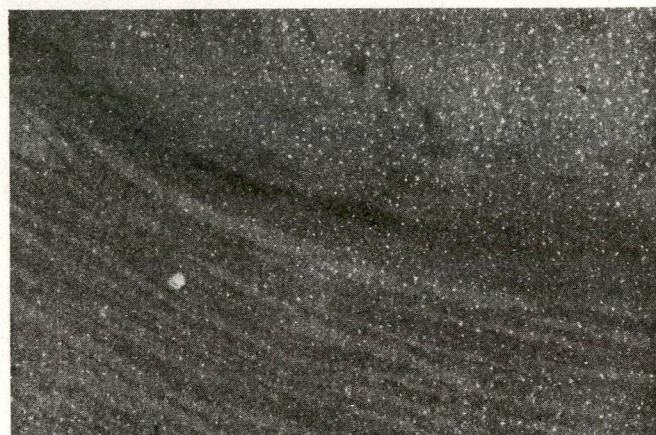


Figure 3 — Microscopic appearance of testicular nodule (hematoxylin and eosin) A) Original magnification X40 B) Original magnification X100

cysts were diagnosed *after* radical orchiectomy.

As 86 per cent of all cases occur between the second and fourth decades¹, we believe that a nonmutilating procedure should be performed on these young adults

whenever frozen sections reveal it as a benign lesion beyond doubt. Moreover, since it is a nonmetastasizing neoplasm unless associated with other malignant testicular tumors as stated by others^{1,2}, we find no reason to proceed with radical surgery.

With more accurate ultrasound technics to assess testicular masses an epidermoid cyst can be suspected in many cases. Then an inguinal approach should be performed, the cyst enucleated, and frozen section carried on along with adjacent testicular parenchyma. If a benign testicular cyst is demonstrated, the testicle may be salvaged. On the other hand, if the pathologist is in doubt whether it is a benign lesion, a radical orchiectomy is to be performed.

Resumo

O cisto epidermóide é uma lesão benigna responsável por aproximadamente 1 por cento de todos os tumores testiculares. Ele não pode ser diferenciado de outros tumores testiculares com base unicamente em aspectos clínicos. Apresentamos um caso de cisto epidermóide e fazemos uma breve revisão da literatura mundial sobre o assunto.

Unitermos: *cisto epidermóide; tumores testiculares*

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